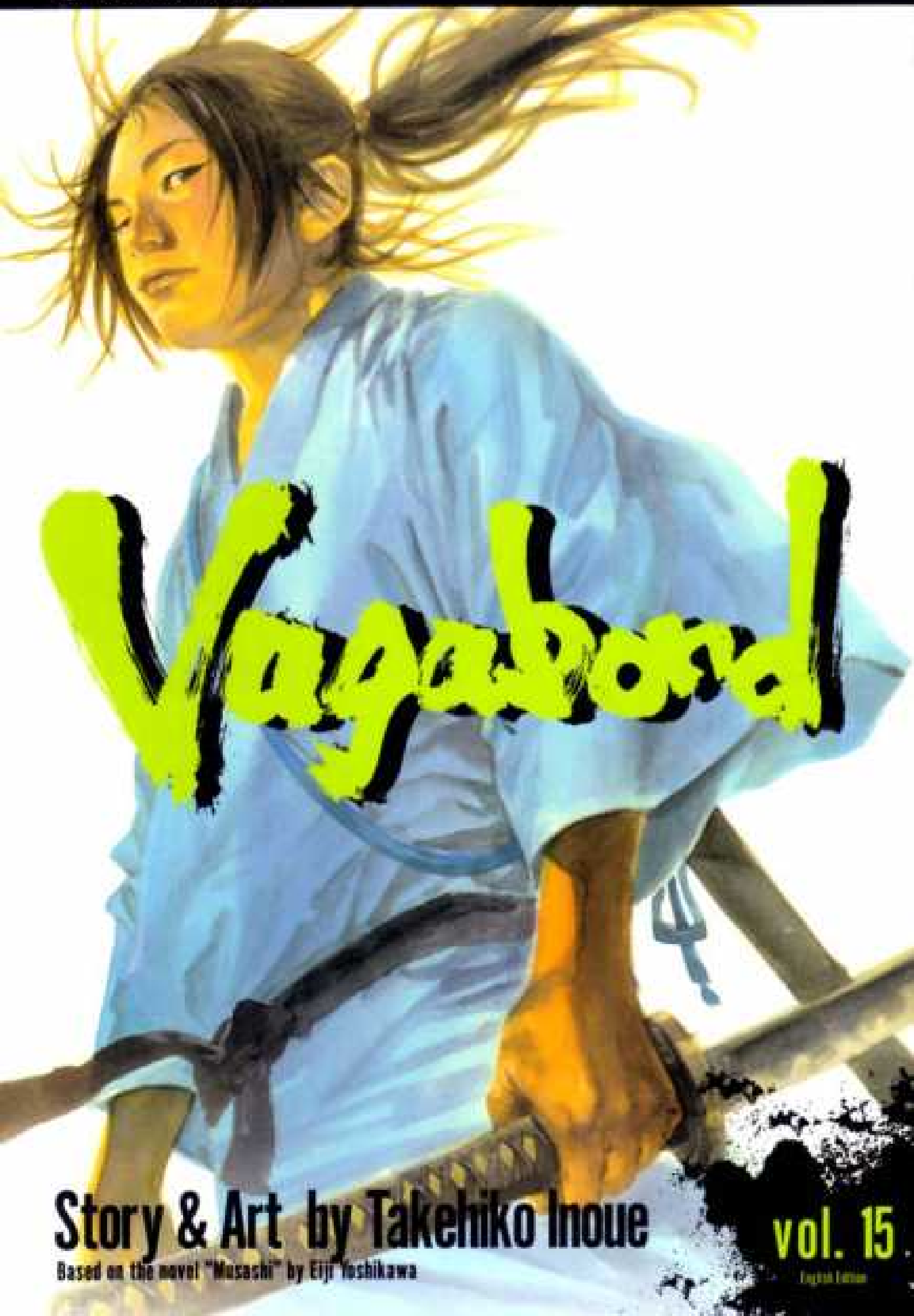
editor's choice



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Story & Art by Takehiko Inoue

Based on the novel "Musashi" by Eiji Yoshikawa

vol. 15

English Edition

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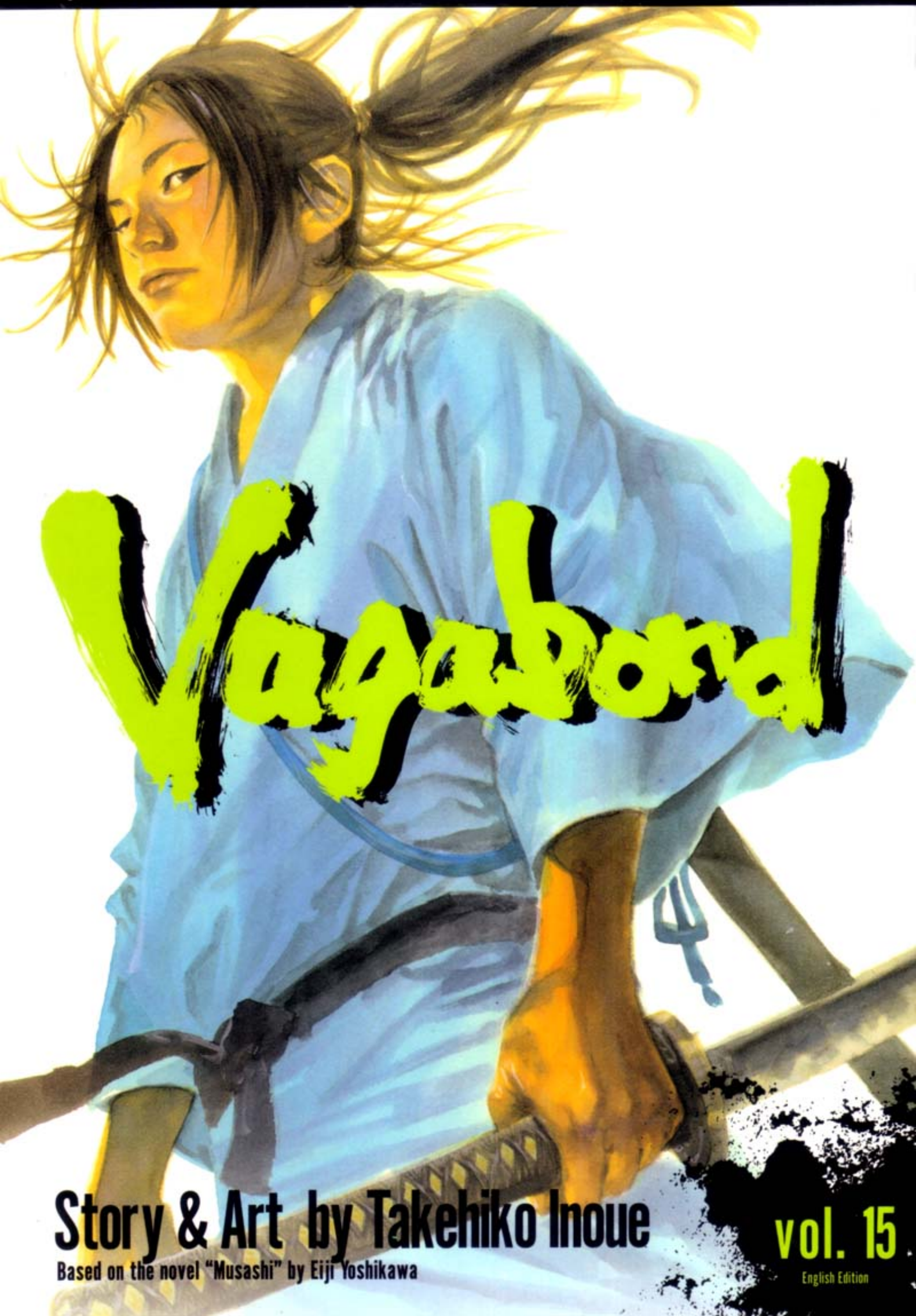

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Story & Art by Takehiko Inoue

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vol. 15

English Edition

**Vagabond Vol. 15**

**Story & Art by**
**Takehiko Inoue**
**Based on the novel "Musashi" by Eiji Yoshikawa**

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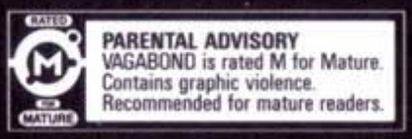
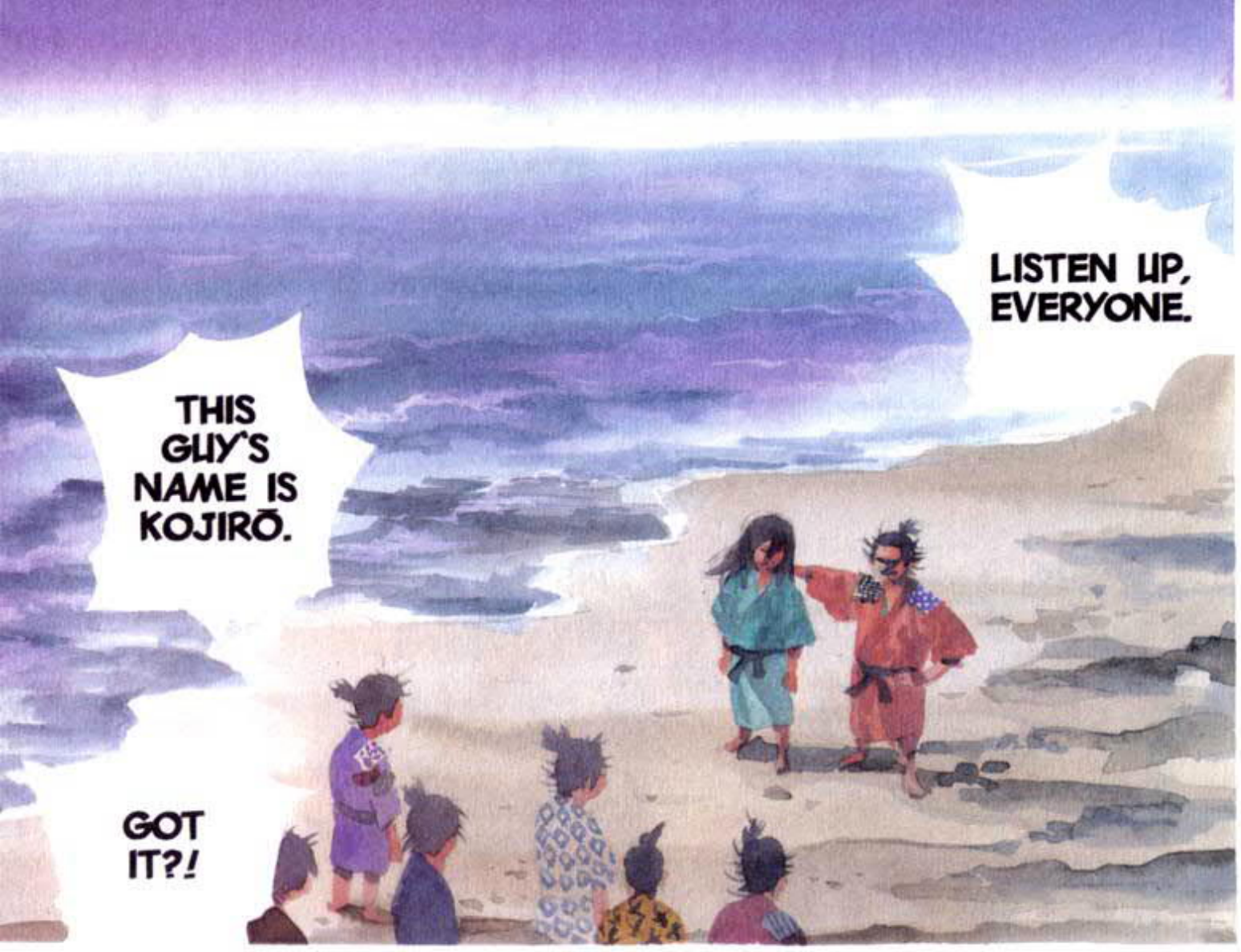


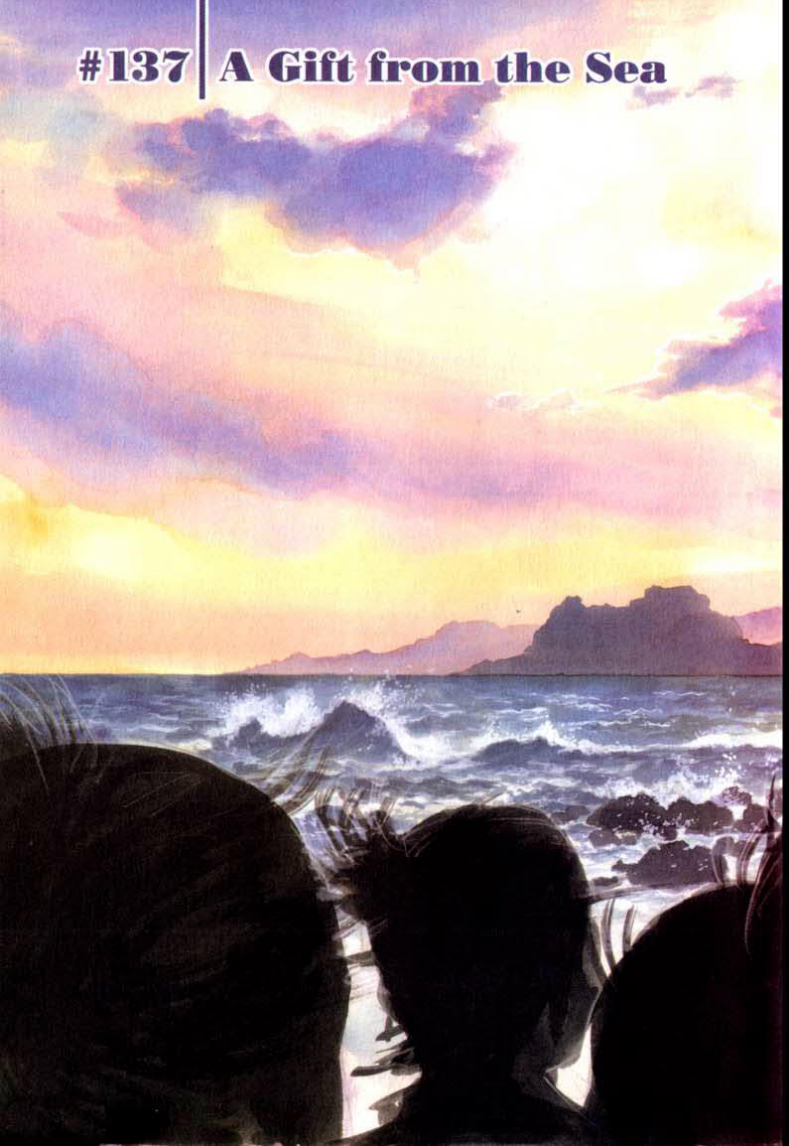

**PARENTAL ADVISORY**
VAGABOND is rated M for Mature.
Contains graphic violence.
Recommended for mature readers.

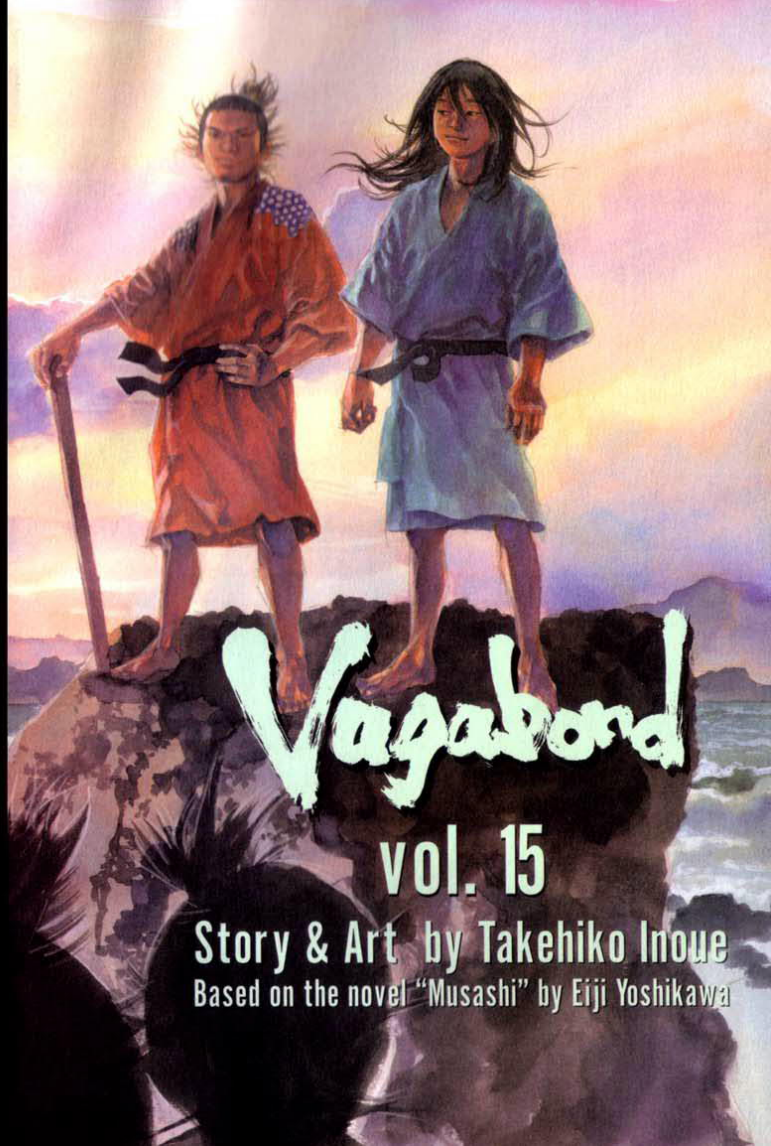

LISTEN UP, EVERYONE.
THIS GUY'S NAME IS KOJIRŌ.
GOT IT?!

I DOUBT ANY OF YOU'D CHALLENGE SOMEONE THAT EVEN *I* CAN'T BEAT...

IF YOU INSULT *HIM* THEN YOU'RE INSULTING *ME!!*
UNDER-STAND?!

# #137 | A Gift from the Sea





# Vagabond

## vol. 15

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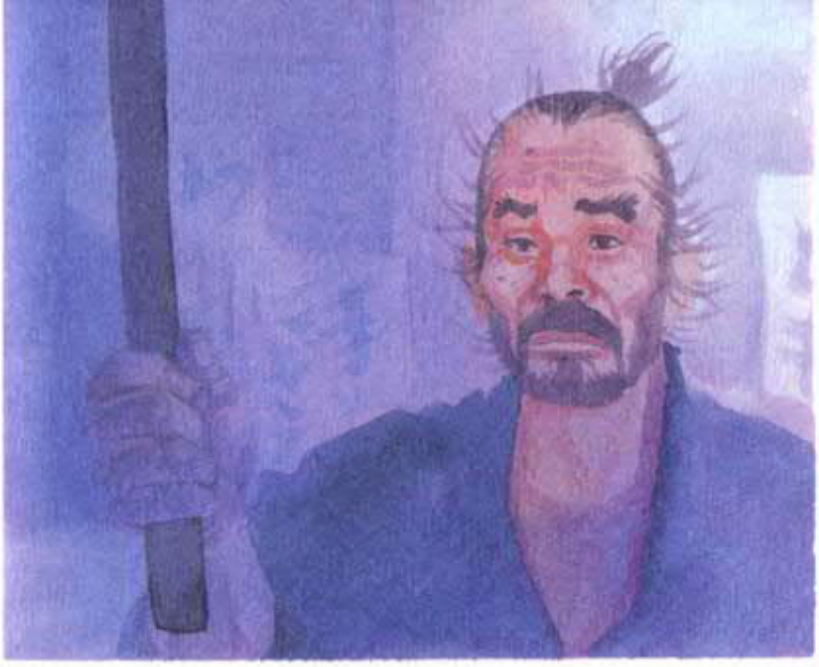
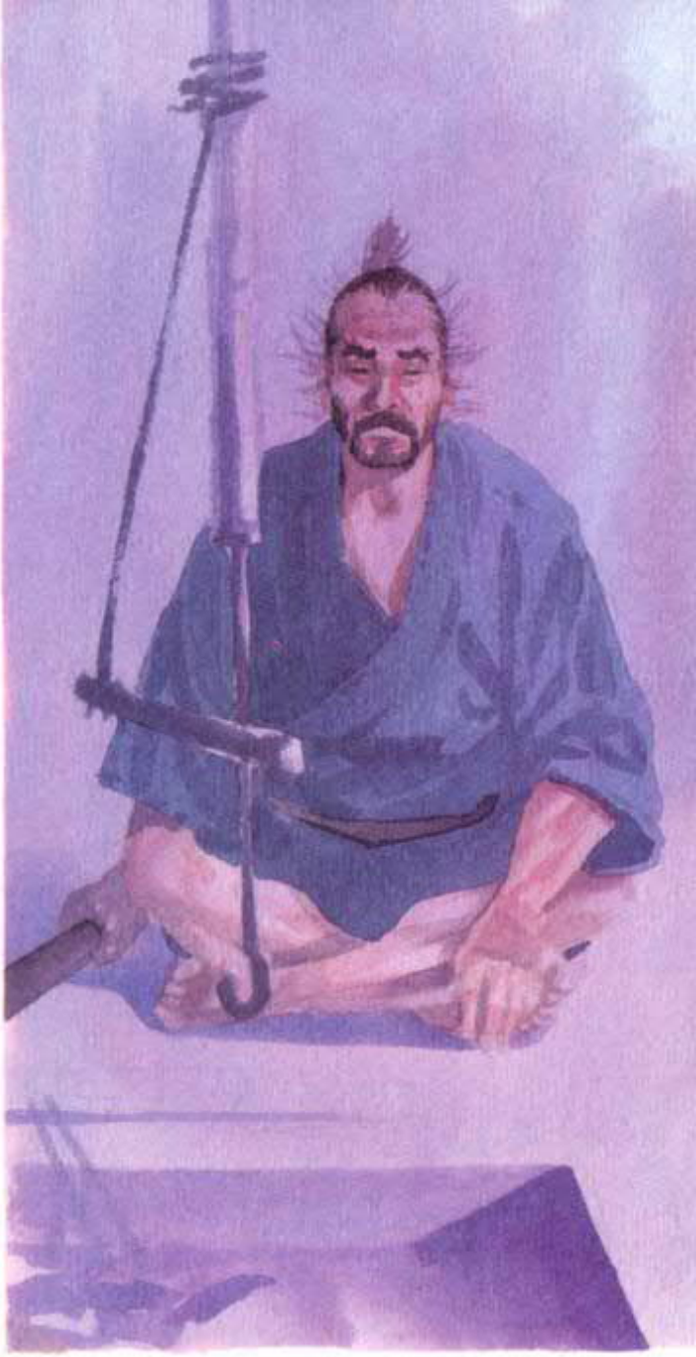
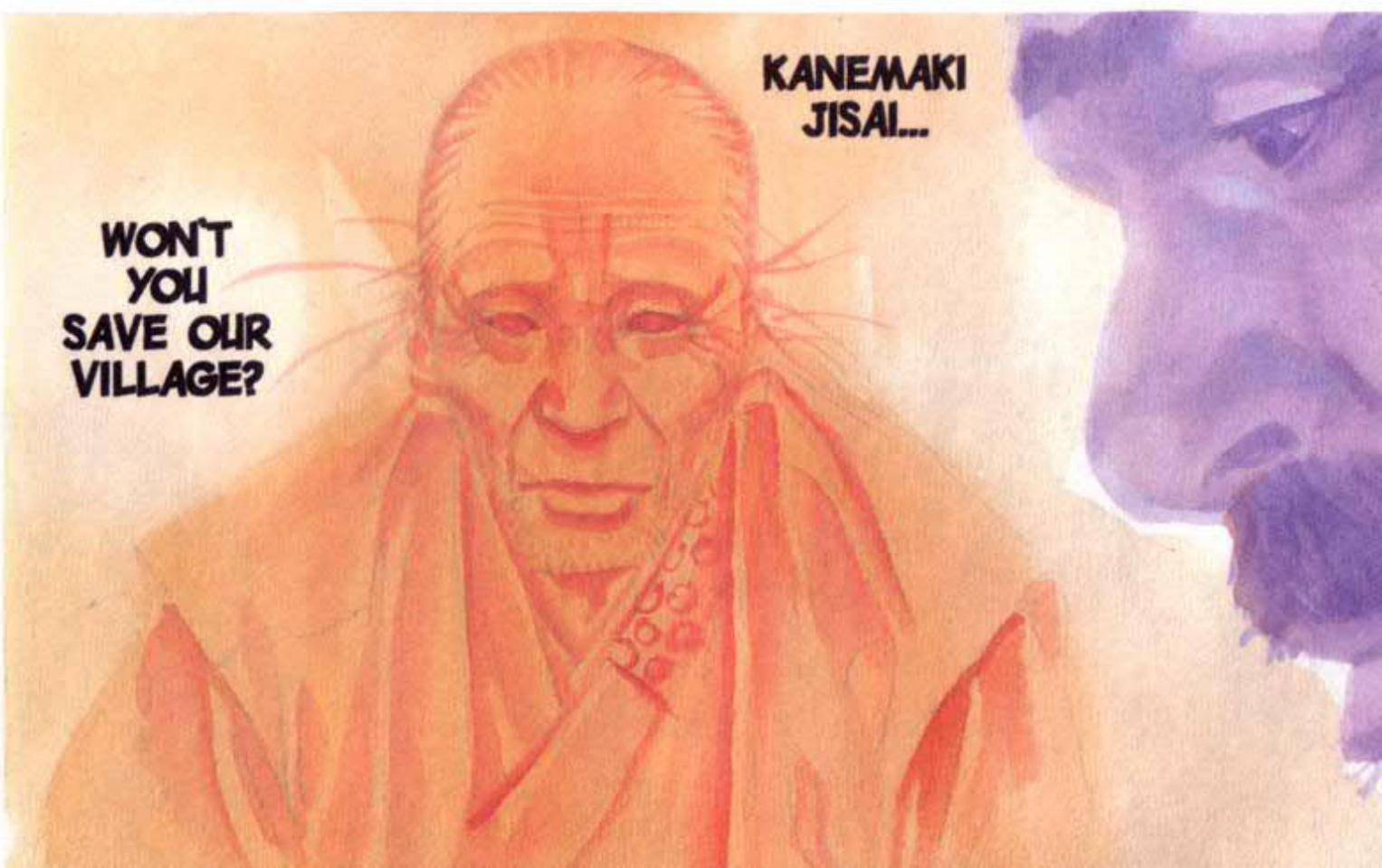
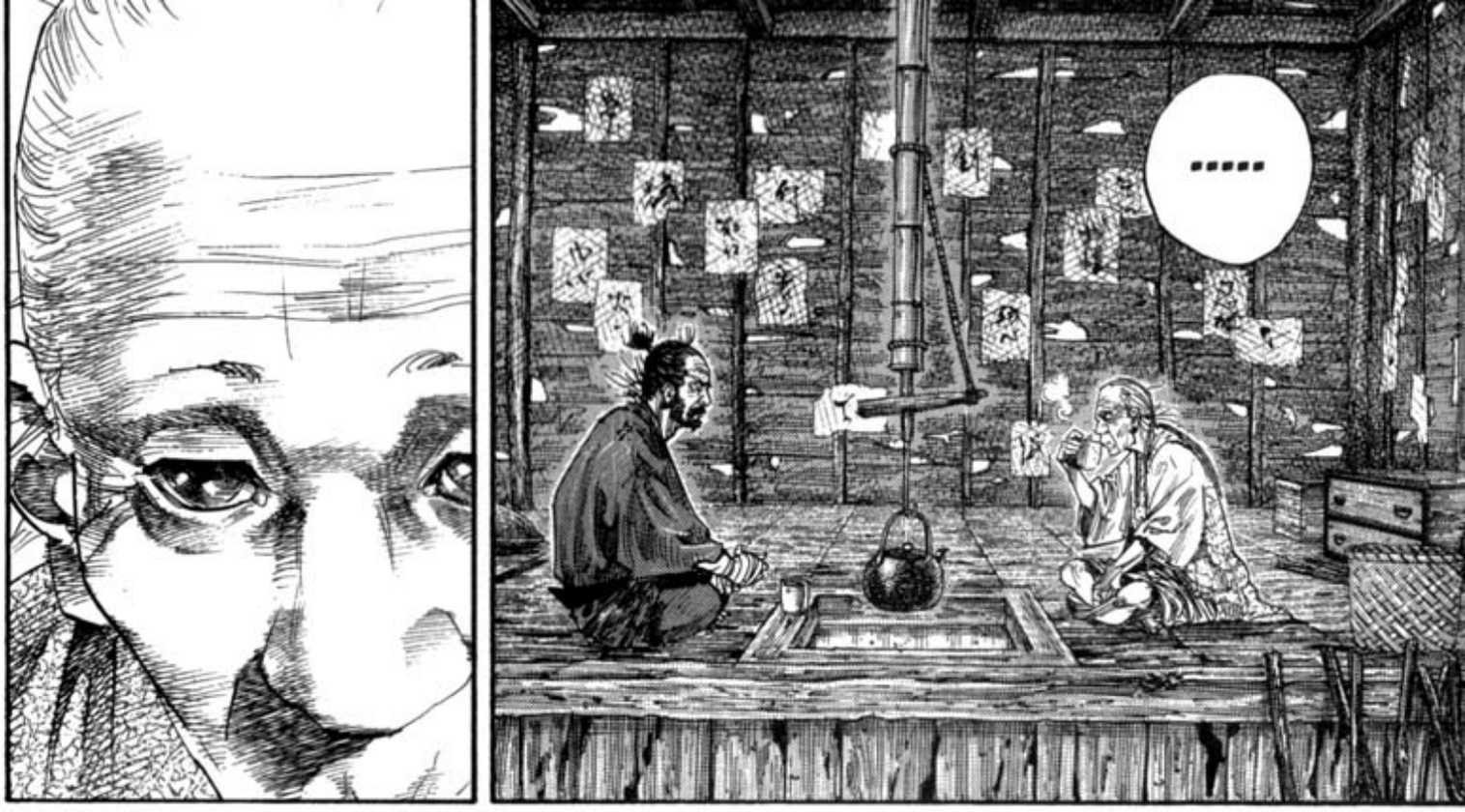




WHY DID I AGREE TO DO IT...?



COME ...
LET'S TREAT THAT WOUND AND DISCUSS THIS MATTER FURTHER...
.....
I AM THE VILLAGE ELDER.
I JUST HAD TO FIND OUT HOW STRONG YOU REALLY ARE...
I APOLOGIZE FOR PUTTING YOUR SWORDSMANSHIP TO THE TEST IN SUCH A MANNER.
FUDŌ...
...YŪGETSUSAI...
MAY I HAVE SOME HOT WATER?
DO AS YOU PLEASE.
HAVE YOU HEARD OF HIM ?
NO, I HAVEN'T.
BUT THERE ARE PLENTY OF FORMIDABLE MEN WHOSE NAMES REMAIN UNKNOWN.
HM... JUST LIKE YOU.
.....

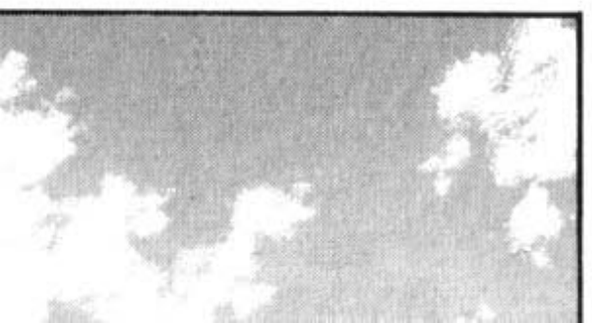

.....

WHO

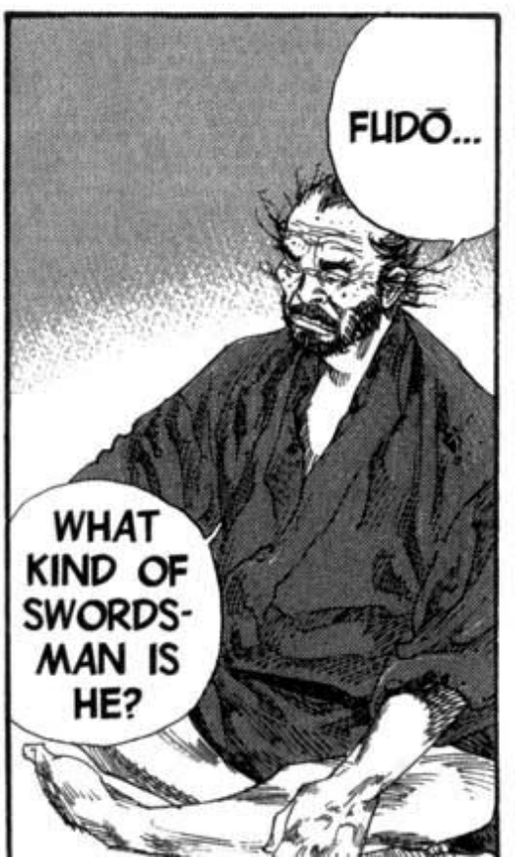
THIS SHALL BE YOUR REWARD IF YOU KILL FUDŌ.

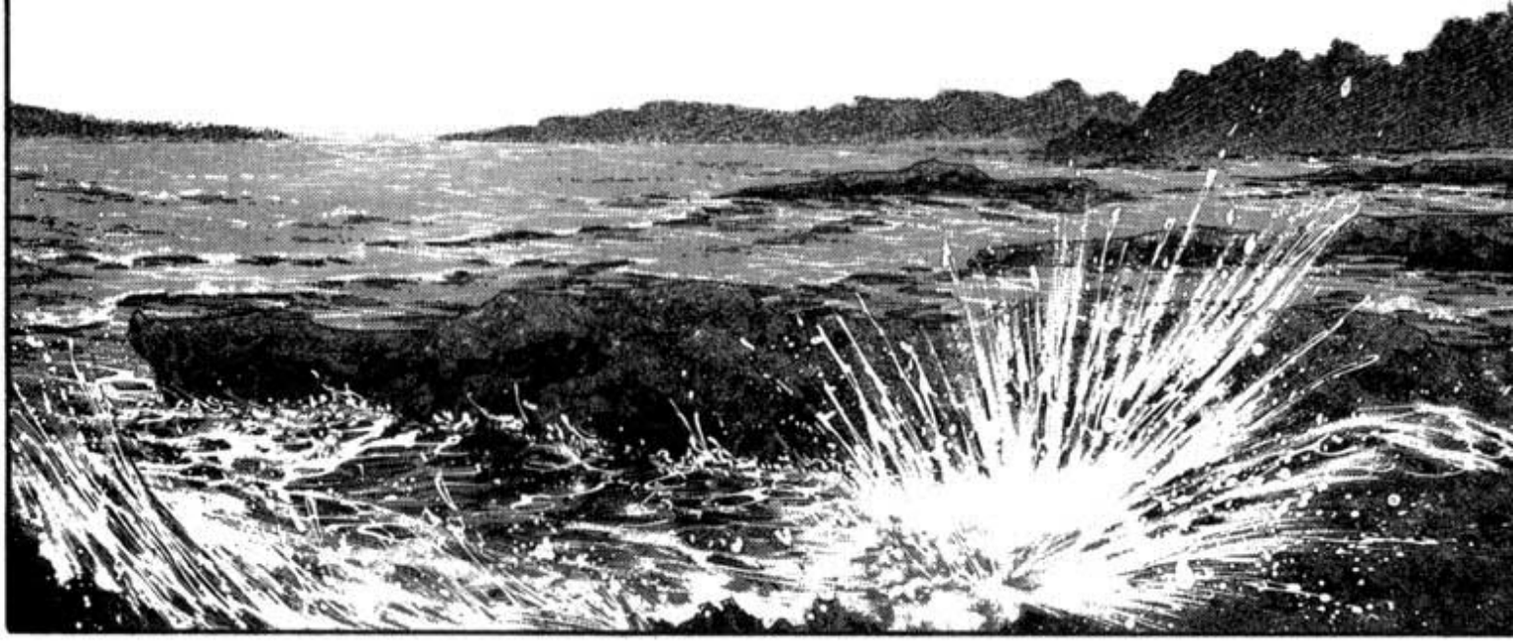
GASP

KANEMAKI JISAI...
YOU MUST SAVE OUR VILLAGE.
...!!



IT DOESN'T MATTER. I'M IN NO CONDITION TO FIGHT ANYMORE.


FUDŌ...
WHAT KIND OF SWORDS-MAN IS HE?



HE CAN'T EVEN HEAR ME.

EVEN THOUGH I'M HIS DISCIPLE NOW...
...I'M NOT DOING ANYTHING.
HEY, KOJIRŌ! AREN'T WE GOING TO TRAIN?!

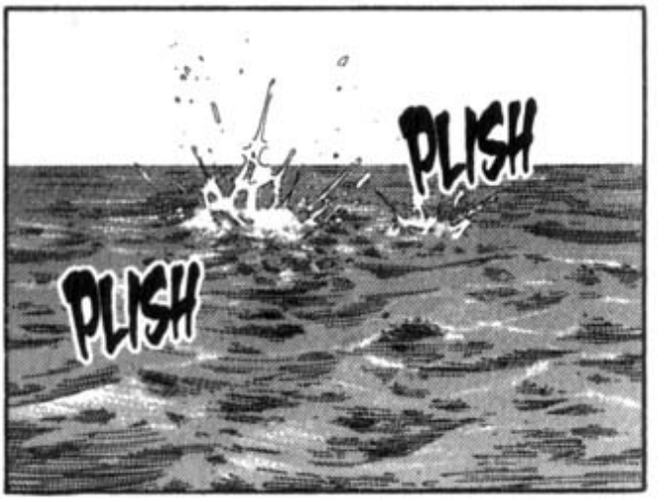
HOW COULD HE SWING THIS LOG AROUND...?
HE'S AMAZING.

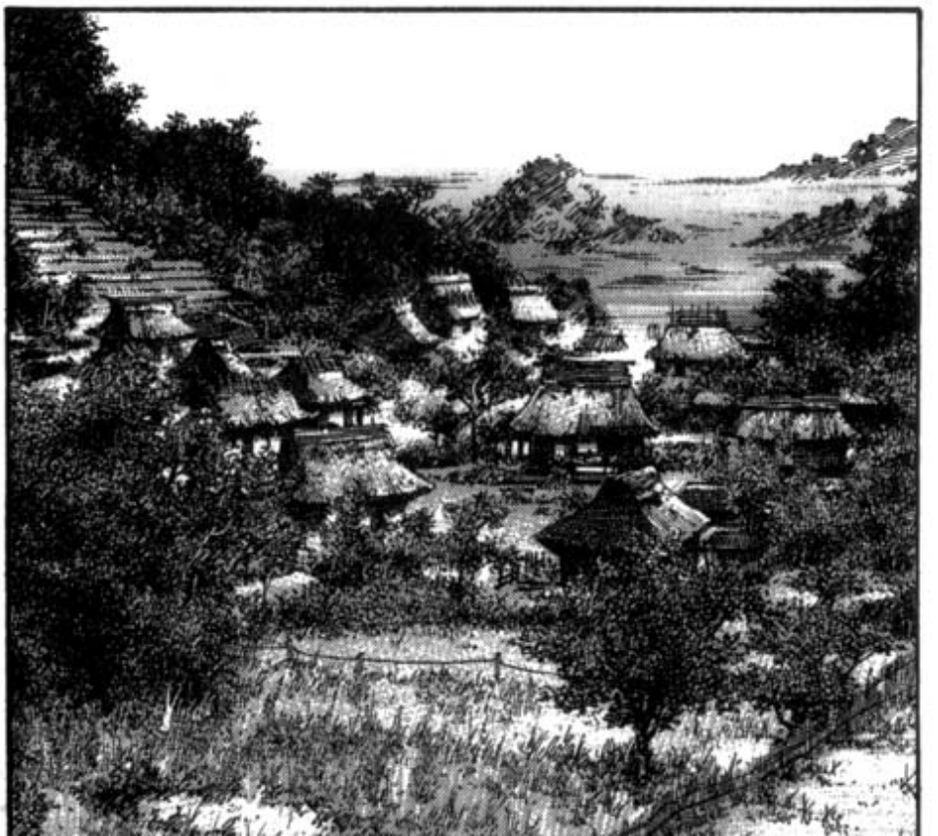
.....

THIS THING'S SO HEAVY...!
GEEZ ...

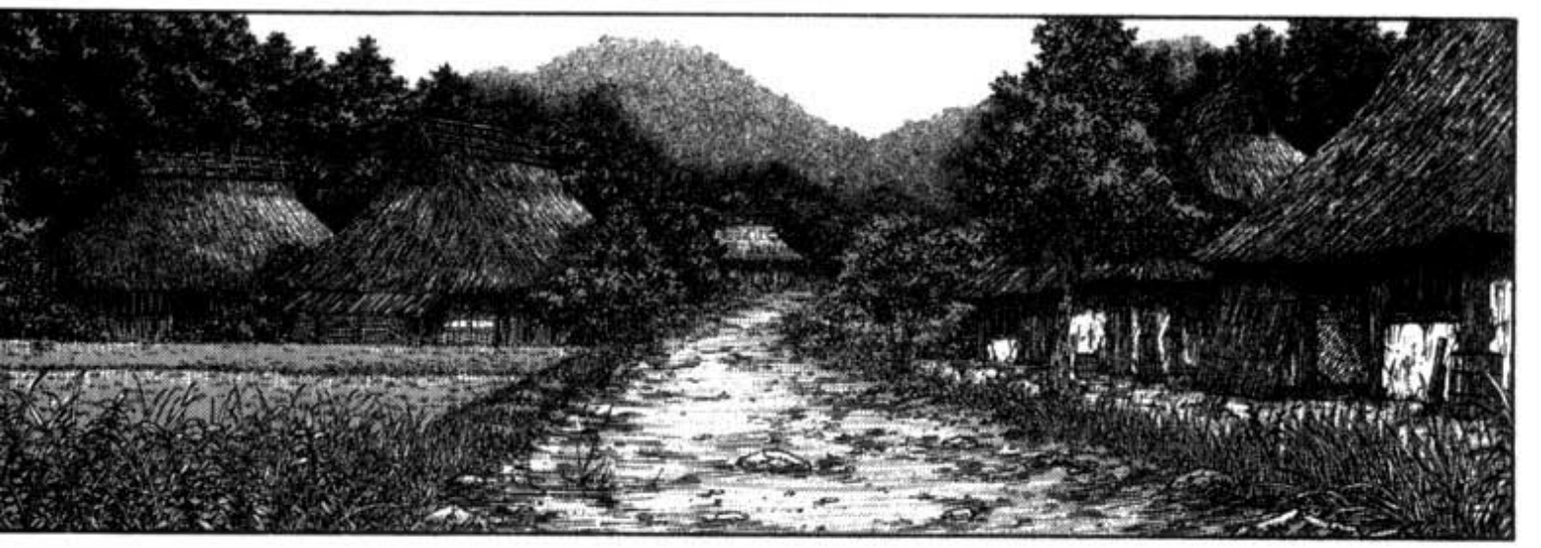
HEY, COME ON! LET'S DO SOME TRAINING, KOJIRŌ!
...I HAVE TO TRAIN LIKE HIM.
TO BE LIKE HIM...

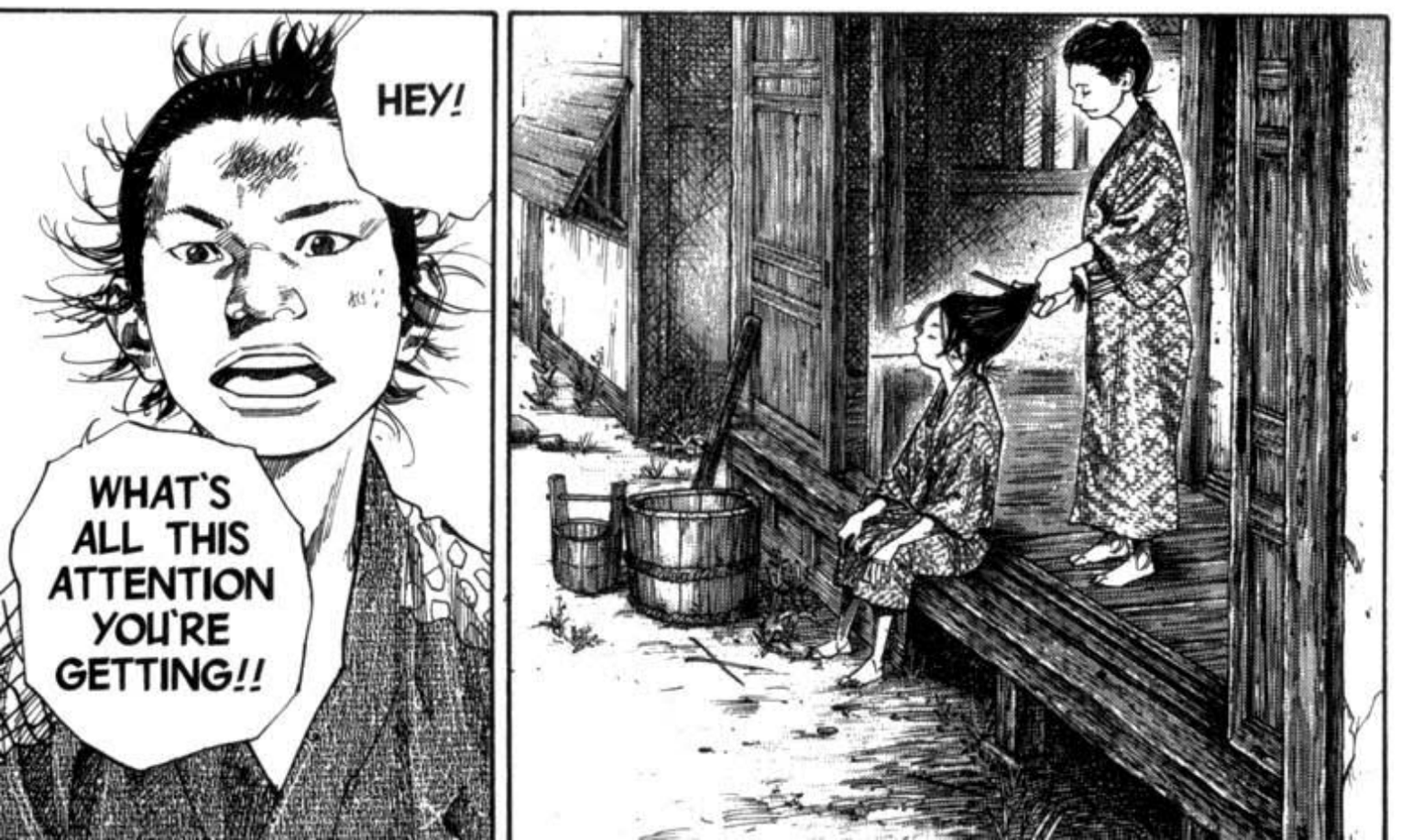
UMF
THIS IS HEAVY.
WHAT IS HE, A FISH?


PLISH
PLISH



HEY, HAVE YOU SEEN KOJIRŌ?
HE WAS HERE JUST A MINUTE AGO. HE WENT THAT WAY.
I TOLD HIM TO WAIT FOR ME WHILE I WAS RELIEVING MYSELF!
IT'S ALL BECAUSE HE CAN'T HEAR. NOW WHERE'D HE RUN OFF TO?
GRMBL GRMBL




HEY!
WHAT'S ALL THIS ATTENTION YOU'RE GETTING!!

WHY'RE YOU SO POPULAR...
...WITH THE LADIES ?
DAMN! I WANT SOME DUMPLINGS, TOO...

YOU'VE GOT BEAN PASTE ON YOUR CHIN!

THIS IS KOJIRŌ.
HE'S STRONGER THAN ME.

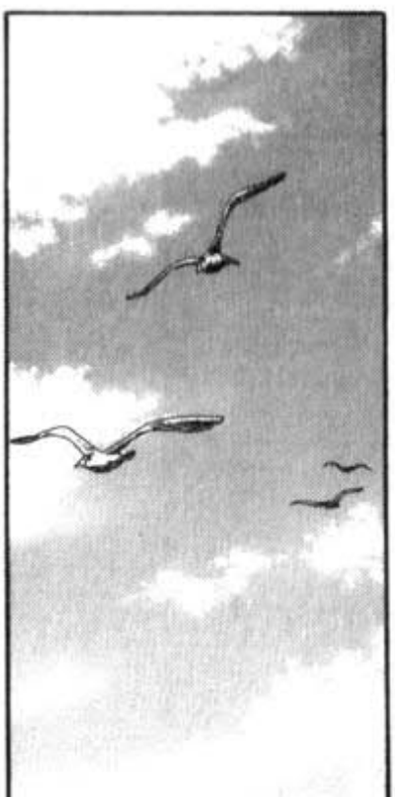
FATHER...

THAT'S RIGHT.
ZZZ...
ZZZ...
.....
YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY I WANT TO BE YOUR DISCIPLE AND BECOME STRONGER?
I'LL TELL YOU WHY...
FUDŌ
不動
SO I CAN CUT DOWN FUDŌ...
HE'S THE MAN WHO CHOPPED OFF MY FATHER'S ARM.

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE WORKING!! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING!?

KAME!!
!!

HEY...
YOU'RE THAT OLD COOT'S KID.
CAN'T YOU SEE HOW OUR FATHER'S SUFFERING ?
HOW CAN YOU BE PLAYING AROUND WITH THAT KID?!



NO, GOSUKE...
HUH ?
YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND...
I'M GOING TO AVENGE FATHER...

SNIFF
DON'T YOU DARE TELL ANYONE I CRIED.
HUH?!
HEE HEE
AHH!
IS THIS THE PAPER I WROTE ON?!

NO...
GO AWAY...

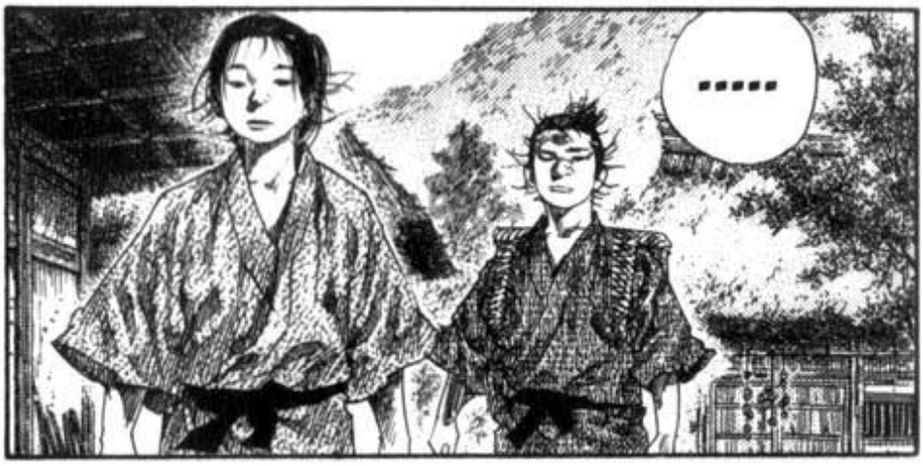
.....

GET OUT OF HERE.

COULD YOU SPARE SOME FOOD?

THAT'S RIGHT.
WHAT ABOUT THAT MIGHTY CHŪJŌ SCHOOL OF HIS?
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
HE'S A FRAUD.

WHAT NERVE...
THE FIRST TIME HE TALKS TO US AND HE BEGS FOR FOOD.
HOW PITIFUL.


.....

LET'S GO.

COME ON.

.....

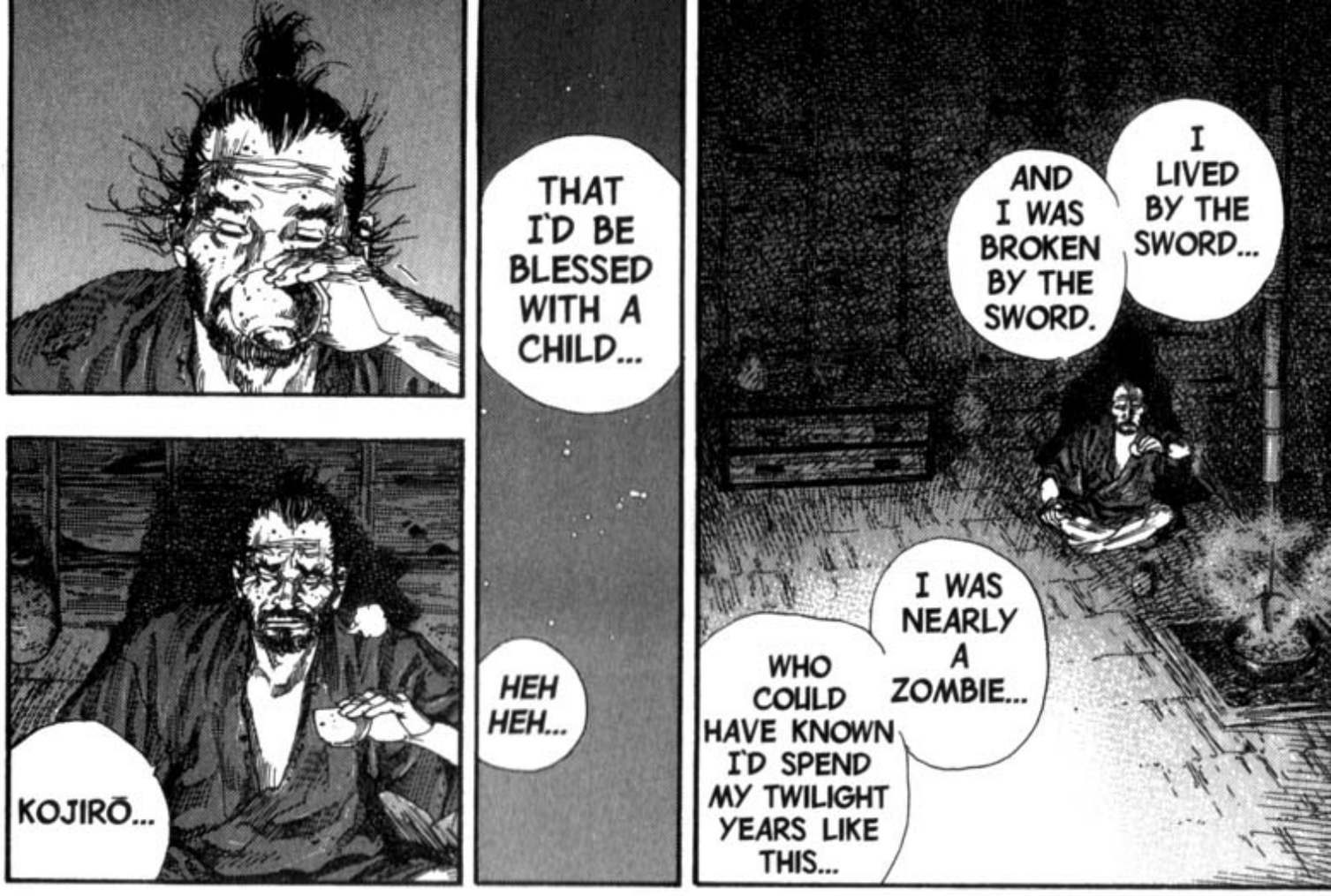
HE'S HARDLY EVER HOME THESE DAYS.
KOJIRŌ'S OUT LATE...

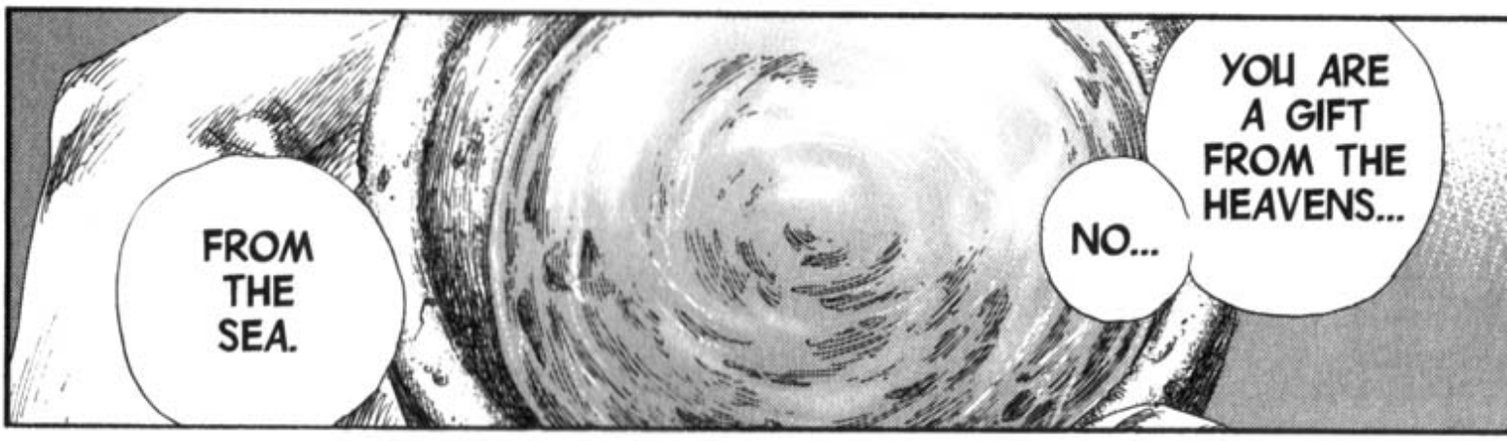
HE'S ALREADY NINE YEARS OLD.
EVERY DAY HE'S GROWING UP JUST A LITTLE BIT...

GLUG
GLUG
GLUG

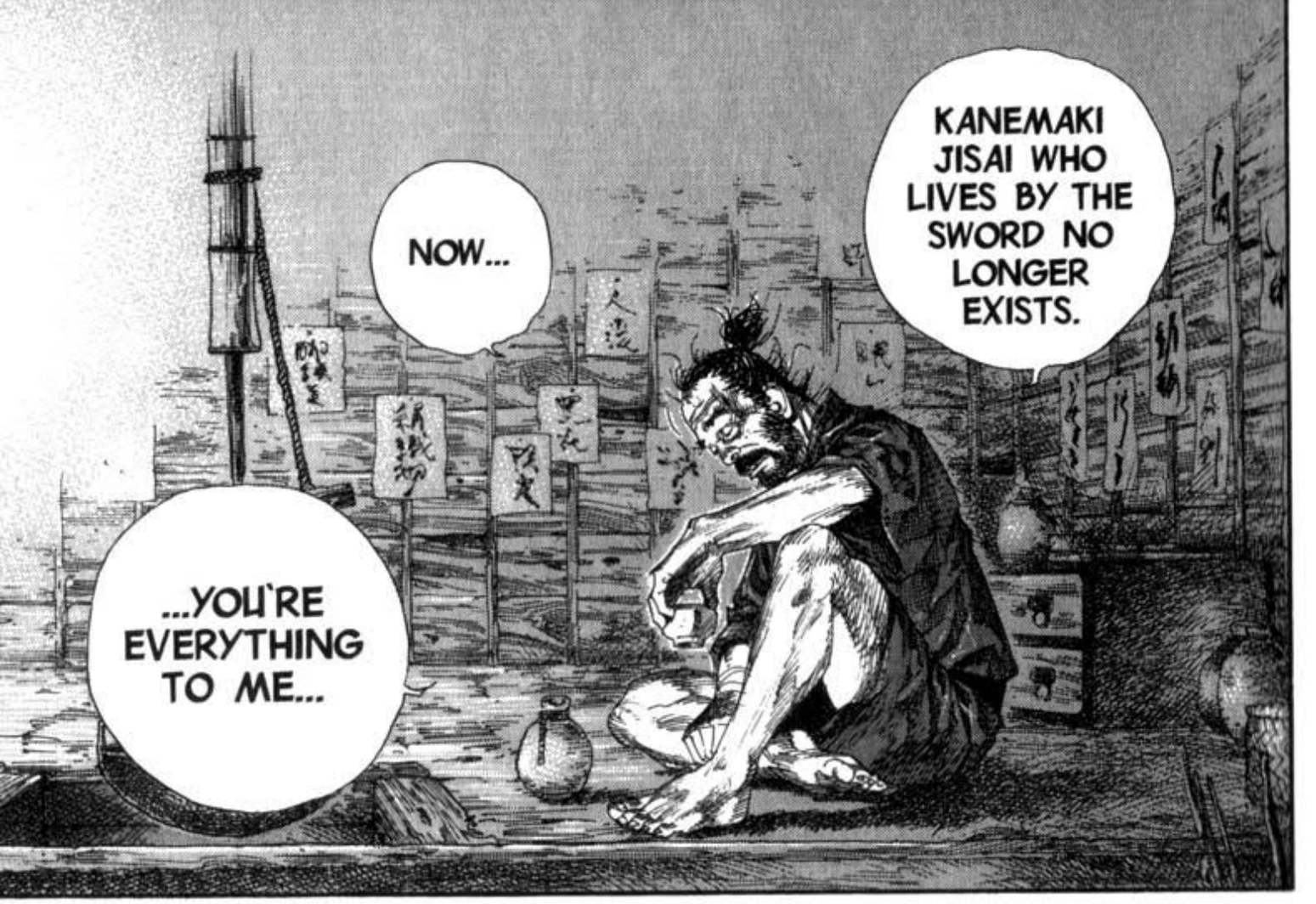
HE WAS SO CUTE WHEN HE WAS THREE OR FOUR...
COULDN'T DO A THING WITHOUT ME... HA HA...

IT WAS HARD WORK...
STILL IS...
DON'T KNOW HOW GOOD OF A JOB I'M DOING AS HIS FATHER, THOUGH...


I LIVED BY THE SWORD...
AND I WAS BROKEN BY THE SWORD.
I WAS NEARLY A ZOMBIE...
WHO COULD HAVE KNOWN I'D SPEND MY TWILIGHT YEARS LIKE THIS...
THAT I'D BE BLESSED WITH A CHILD...
HEH HEH...
KOJIRŌ...


YOU ARE A GIFT FROM THE HEAVENS...
NO...
FROM THE SEA.

I'D DO ANYTHING FOR YOU.
THAT'S WHAT KEEPS ME GOING.


KANEMAKI JISAI WHO LIVES BY THE SWORD NO LONGER EXISTS.
NOW...
...YOU'RE EVERYTHING TO ME...

FWP

I'LL EVEN BEG IF I HAVE TO.
WHO THE HELL DO THEY THINK THEY ARE?
DAMN PEASANTS.
MMBL MMBL

I WON'T DO IT.
TOO BAD FOR THE ELDER BUT I JUST WON'T DO IT.

WHACK
I'LL HELP YOU IN THE FIELDS...
...AS SOON AS MY WOUNDS HAVE HEALED!
.....
.....
HOW ABOUT JOINING US FOR DINNER...?
COME, OLD MA--
I MEAN, SENSEI!
.....

I GUESS IT'S TOO LOUD HERE. YOU CAN'T RELAX AND EAT.
CAN YOU MAKE THEM INTO RICE BALLS?
QUIET DOWN! WE'VE GOT COMPANY!!

I'LL TAKE SOME BACK FOR KOJIRŌ.
STOP IT!
SORRY.
WAHH!

NO ONE ELSE IN THIS VILLAGE CAN TAKE ON MASTER FUDŌ...

I FEEL BAD ABOUT THIS...
...WE'RE ASKING YOU TO DO THIS ON YOUR OWN...

.....
FUDŌ ...

FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS...

I'M NOT GOING TO DO IT.
NO ...

OLD MAN--!!
PLEASE HELP US!!
NO! I MEANT TO SAY, SENSEI!

ORIN TURNS FOURTEEN THIS YEAR!!
BUT THAT'S CRUEL IN A DIFFERENT WAY.
SOMETIMES, THE ONES THAT AREN'T ATTRACTIVE ARE TURNED AWAY...
WHEN A GIRL TURNS FOURTEEN, SHE'S SENT TO FUDŌ.
BUT I THINK SHE'S BEAUTIFUL.
AND I MAY BE BIASED AS HER FATHER.
SHE'S SUCH A GOOD KID.
SHE'S CARING ...
WE WORKED SO HARD TO RAISE HER.

IF ONLY I KNEW HOW TO WIELD A SWORD...
...BUT I'M JUST A PEASANT WHO KNOWS ONLY ABOUT THE FIELDS.
OLD MAN...
NO, SENSEI!!

FICH
I'M PRAYING FOR YOUR SUCCESS...!!
FICH

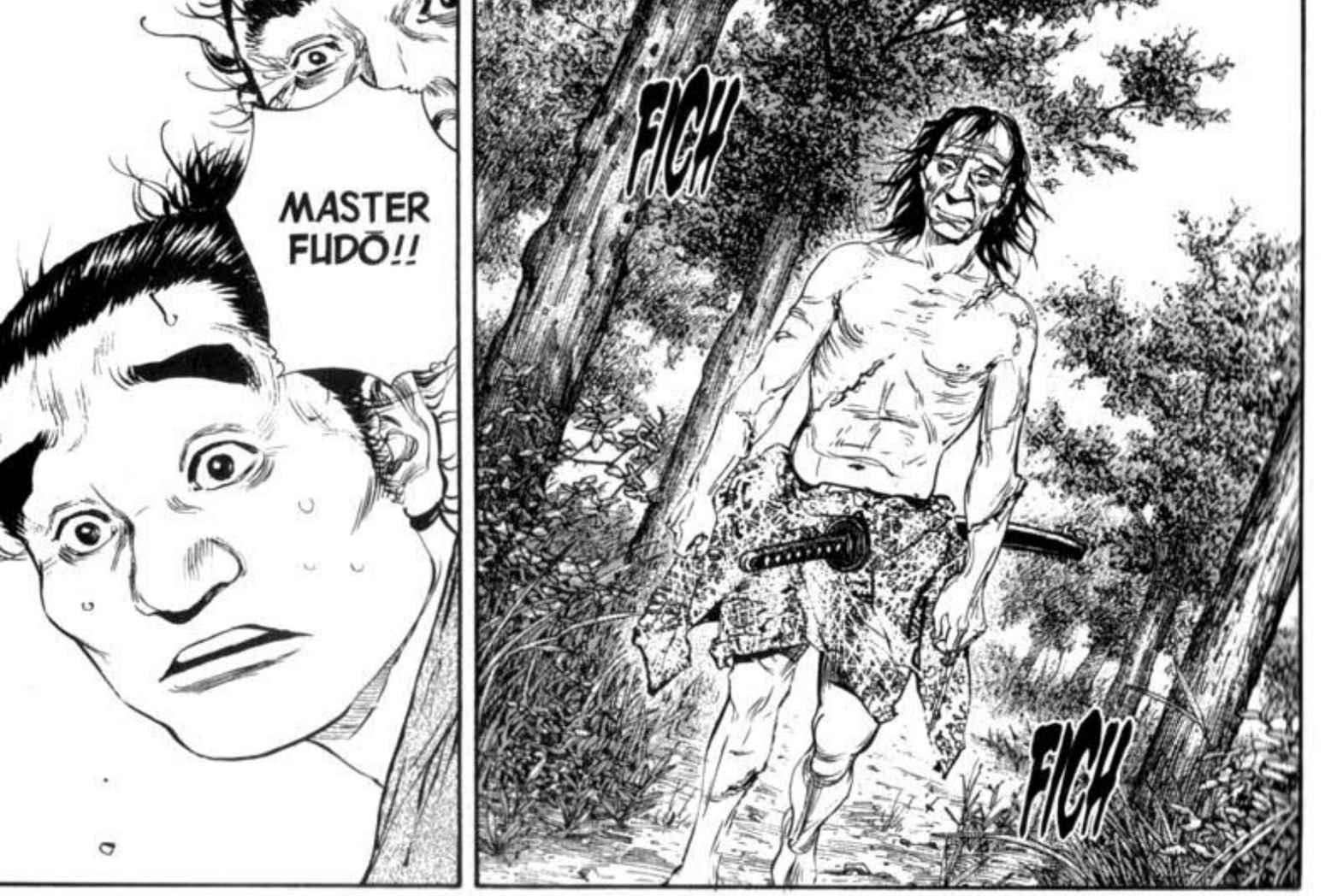
FICH
FICH

FICH
FICH
HUF
HUF
HM...
GASP!
FICH
FICH

IT'S MASTER FUDŌ...!!
...!!

FICH

# Vagabond


MASTER FUDŌ!!
FICH
FICH

FICH
FUDŌ...

FWUMP
SO THIS IS FUDŌ.

# #138 | Farewell, Kojirō

The girl
HE'S HERE TO TAKE ORIN.
WHAT ?!
ORIN !!
FOOP

SHE'S NOT HERE...
M-MY DAUGHTER ...

TUMP
TMP
TUMP
TMP

CAN I CUT THIS MAN DOWN?
TUMP
TMP
CAN I DO IT...?

TUMP
TMP
CAN I?

FP
FP
FWIP

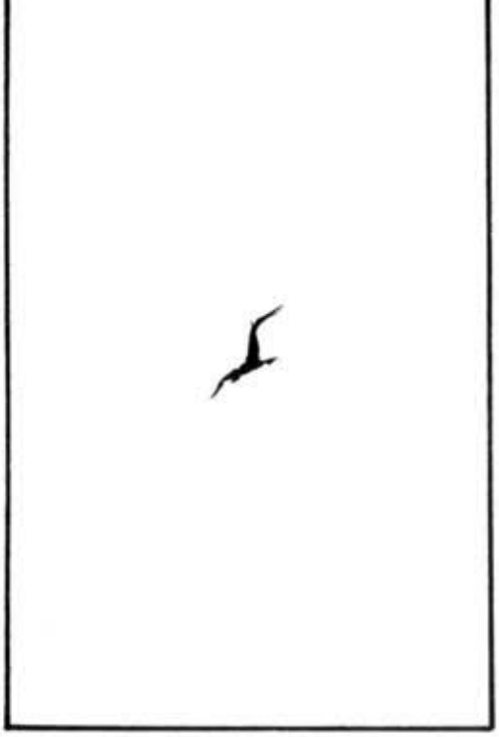
!

...
SENSEI
...

Don't even have a sword and you
Hmph...
FICH
FICH

WHUMP
SENSEI !!
OLD MAN!!
HEY, PA! HE STOPPED BREATH-ING!!
SENSEI ?!
SENSEI !!

GASP!
!!
SNF
SNF
SNF
FICH
SNF
SNF
FSH
FSH



HAK HAK!!
GASP!

HUFF
WHEEZE
HUFF

I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO DIE!
PHEW!
WHEEZE
HUFF
HUFF

I'M GOING TO GO LOOK FOR ORIN!!
HEY!
ALL RIGHT.
BE CAREFUL!
ORIN!!

HE'S HOPE-LESS...
IT'S NO USE.

...HOW IMPOSSIBLE THIS IS FOR YOU...
I REALIZE NOW...

GULP

HERE ...
THIS'LL CALM YOU DOWN.

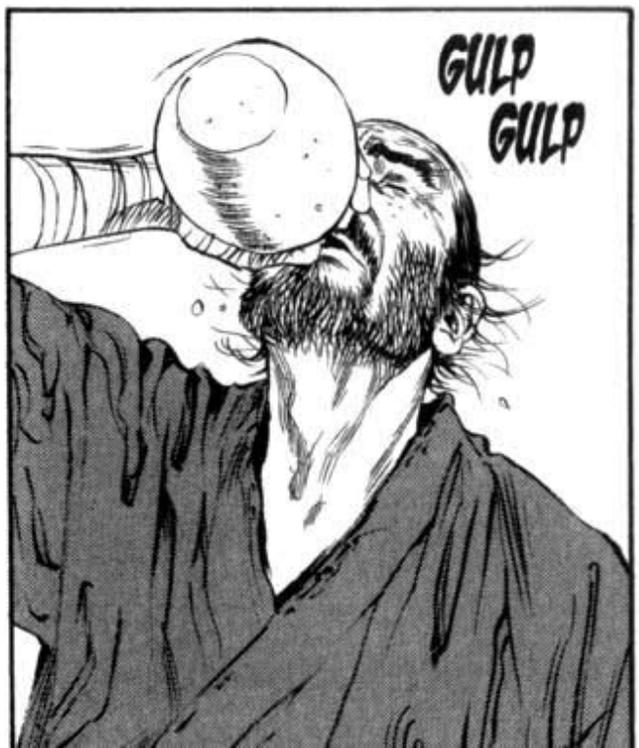
BRR
BRR
BRR

I'LL KILL HIM TONIGHT.

TONIGHT...
I'LL CUT FUDŌ DOWN TONIGHT.
...!!
SENSEI...
TAKING AWAY YOUR CHILD...
THAT'S UN-FORGIVABLE.

FWP

SENSEI
...


GULP
GULP

.....

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN AN OUTSIDER HERE...
THAT'S WHY THE VILLAGE DECIDED TO ASK YOU...
THAT'S WHY WE ASKED YOU TO DO IT ON YOUR OWN.
IT'S OUR OWN PROBLEM...
BUT REALLY ...

SEN-SEI...
DON'T BE RECKLESS!
IT WAS A STUPID REQUEST !!

I CAN'T GET DRUNK.

RIGHT NOW...
...KOJIRŌ IS EVERYTHING TO ME.

OLD MAN!!

SO I UNDER-STAND...
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.

I WON'T LET YOUR DAUGHTER BE TAKEN.

.....
THANKS, BUT YOU CAN'T REALLY DO ANYTHING.
YOU SAW FUDŌ...
HE ONLY GLARED AT YOU AND YOU NEARLY STOPPED BREATHING FOR GOOD!
DON'T THROW AWAY YOUR LIFE!!
THE ELDER AND THE OTHER VILLAGERS DON'T SEEM TO CARE, BUT...
BUT WE...
WE GO WAY BACK, EVER SINCE MY WIFE FIRST NURSED KOJIRŌ...
HA HA!
YOU KEPT ABANDONING KOJIRŌ ON OUR DOORSTEP OVER AND OVER AGAIN.
.....

I SPENT MOST OF MY LIFE...
...OBSESSED WITH THE SWORD.

I'LL SEE TO IT THAT WE CUT EACH OTHER DOWN.

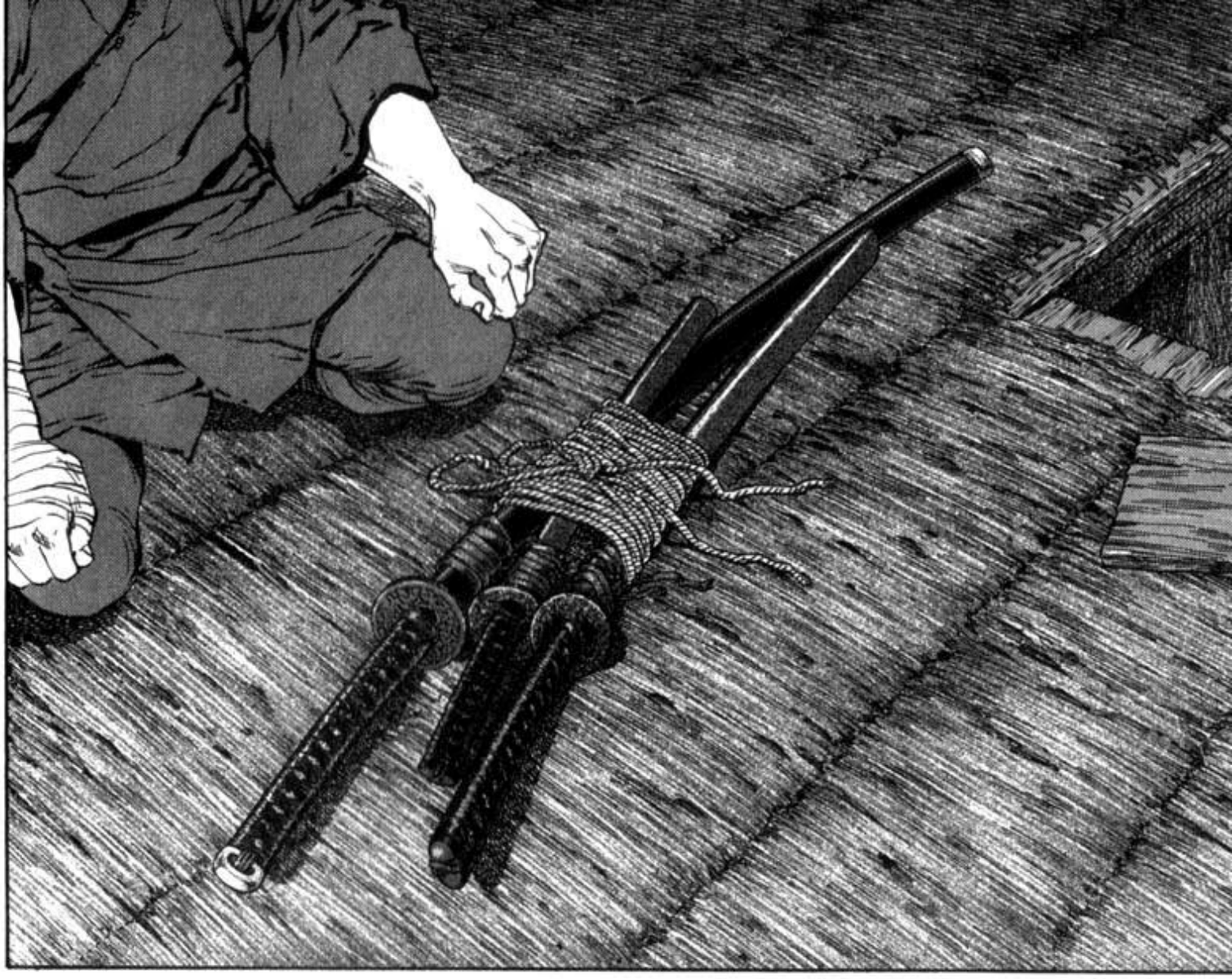
YOU SEE...I'VE DEDICATED MOST OF MY LIFE TO THE SWORD.
I WAS OBSESSED WITH IT...
...HOW TO DEFEAT OTHERS.
AND ONCE I WAS AT THE TOP I NEEDED TO STAY THERE...
HOW TO KNOCK DOWN ALL CHALLENGERS...
THAT'S ALL I THOUGHT ABOUT.

NOW MY SWORD'S RUSTED.
AND MY SPIRIT'S WITHERED.

BUT I'LL MAKE SURE WE CUT EACH OTHER DOWN.

PLEASE TAKE CARE OF KOJIRŌ...
TAKE HIM INTO YOUR FAMILY.

I FEEL LIKE I JUST HEARD YOU SPEAK FOR THE FIRST TIME.
RRIP
RRIP



.....

KOFF
HAK
HAK

HAK

UMF

SHK
SHK
SHK
SHK
SHK
SHK
SHK
DO YOU REMEMBER ?
YOU'D ALWAYS STOP CRYING...
...AS SOON AS YOU TOUCHED THIS SWORD.
YOU PROBABLY DON'T REMEMBER ...
KOJIRŌ...
YOU PROBABLY DON'T REMEMBER
YOU ALWAYS WENT TO BED HUGGING THIS LONG SWORD.

I'M GIVING THIS BACK TO YOU.

FAREWELL, KOJIRŌ...
FICH
FICH

Vagabond

おじさん
(OLD MAN...)
いや せんせい
(I MEAN SENSEI...)

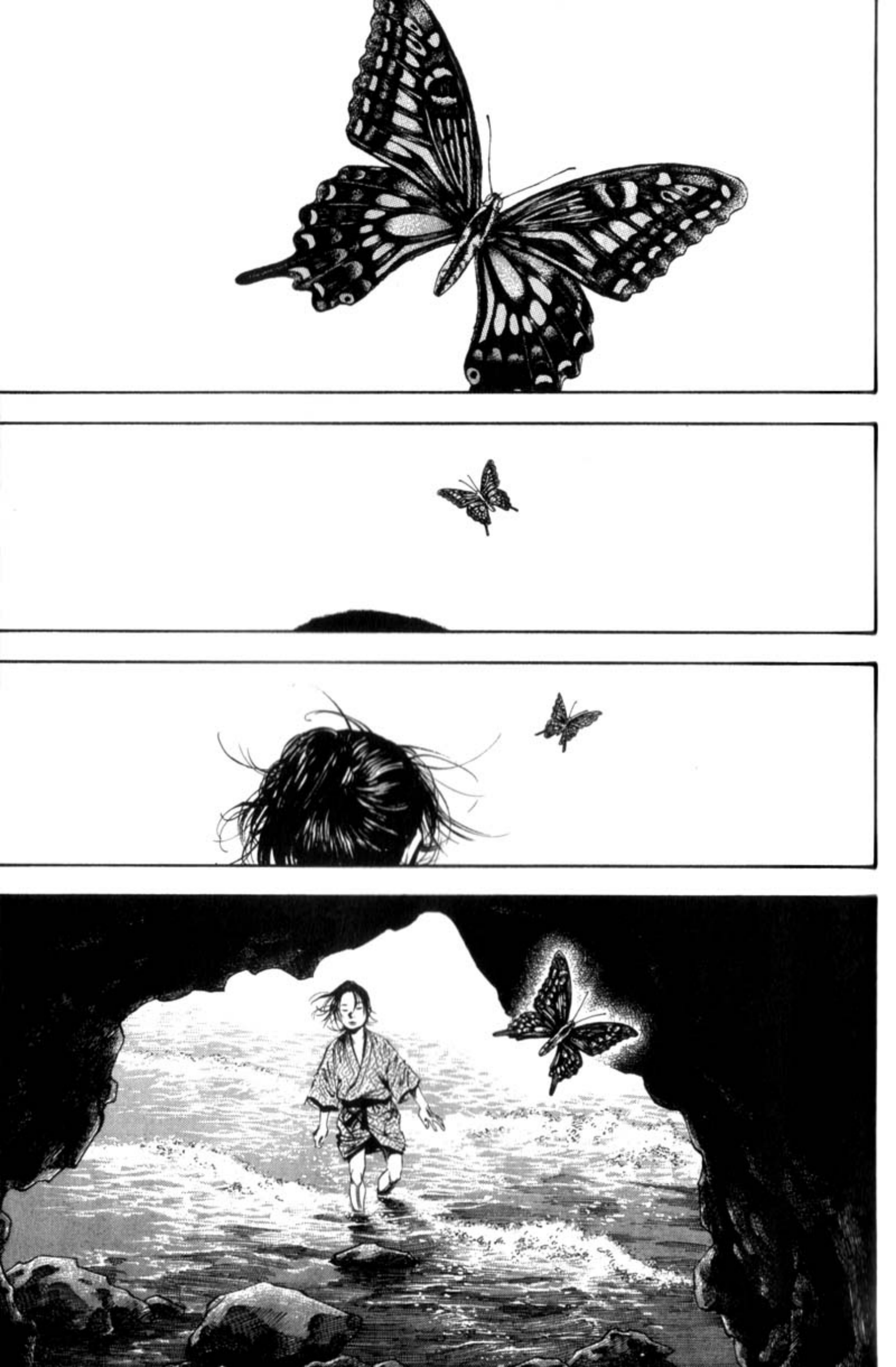
# #139 | Butterfly

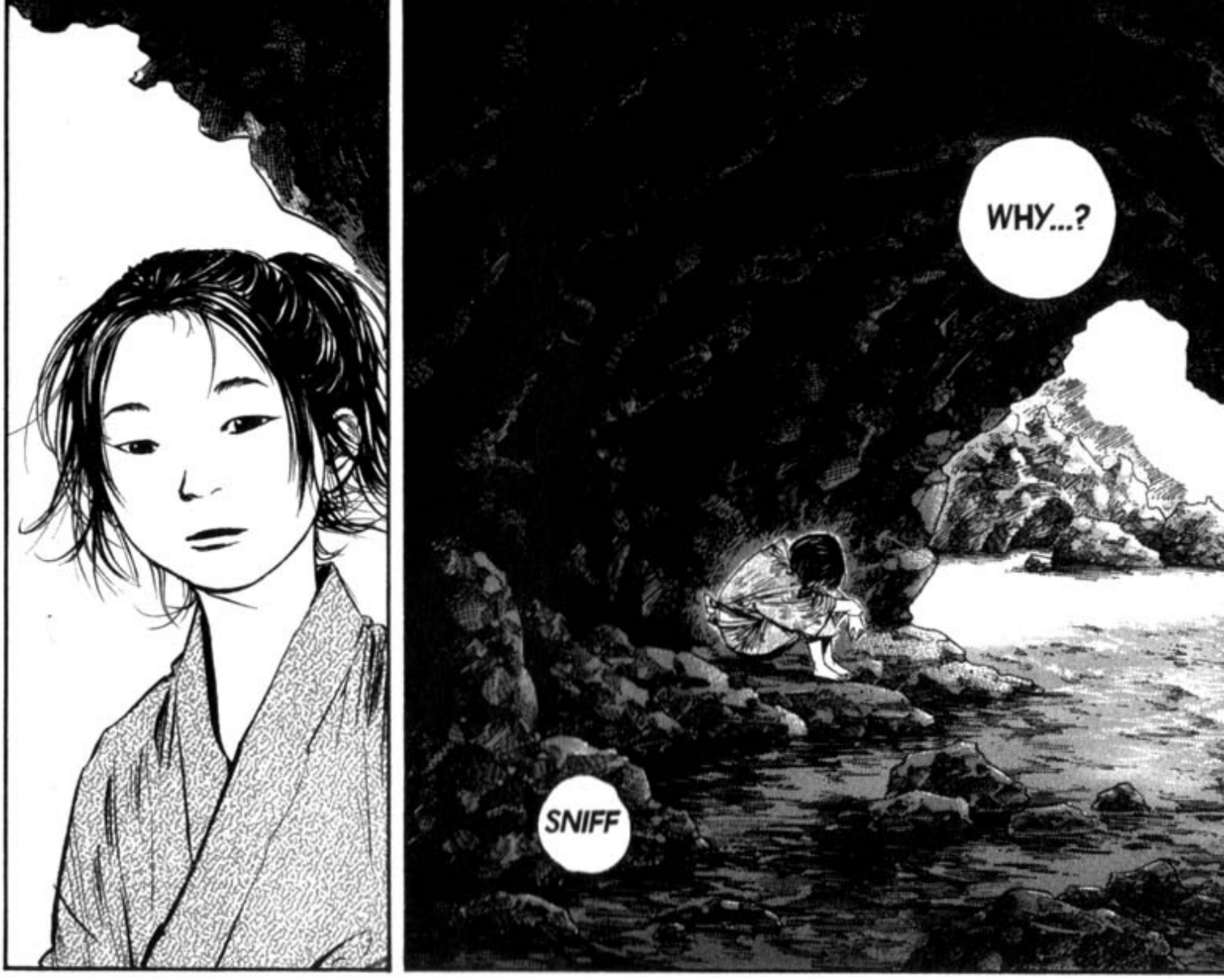
HUH?
FSSSHH

FSSSHH
WHERE'D YOU GO, KOJIRŌ?!

AFTER ALL, TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT OF OUR ATTACK!!

HE ALWAYS JUST RUNS OFF AND DISAPPEARS.
WHERE'S HIS SENSE OF CAMA-RADERIE?
SPLSH
SPLSH




WHY...?
SNIFF

WHY DO I HAVE TO GO TO HIM...?
NO...
NO, I WON'T GO.
WHAT'S HE GOING TO DO TO ME?
SNIFF

SOB SOB
SNF
THEY SHOULD FIGHT HIM.
SOMEONE SHOULD FIGHT HIM!!
SO WHAT IF HE'S STRONG?
WHY WON'T THE VILLAGERS FIGHT HIM?
SNIFF
SO MANY GIRLS HAVE BEEN TAKEN AWAY BY HIM.
I WON'T DO IT! I WON'T GO!
NO!!
I WON'T GO!
I WON'T! I WON'T!

TUP

KOJIRŌ
...

PLISH
PLISH
.....
FSSSHH
SPLSSSH

PLISH
THERE YOU ARE!!
HEY!

TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT!

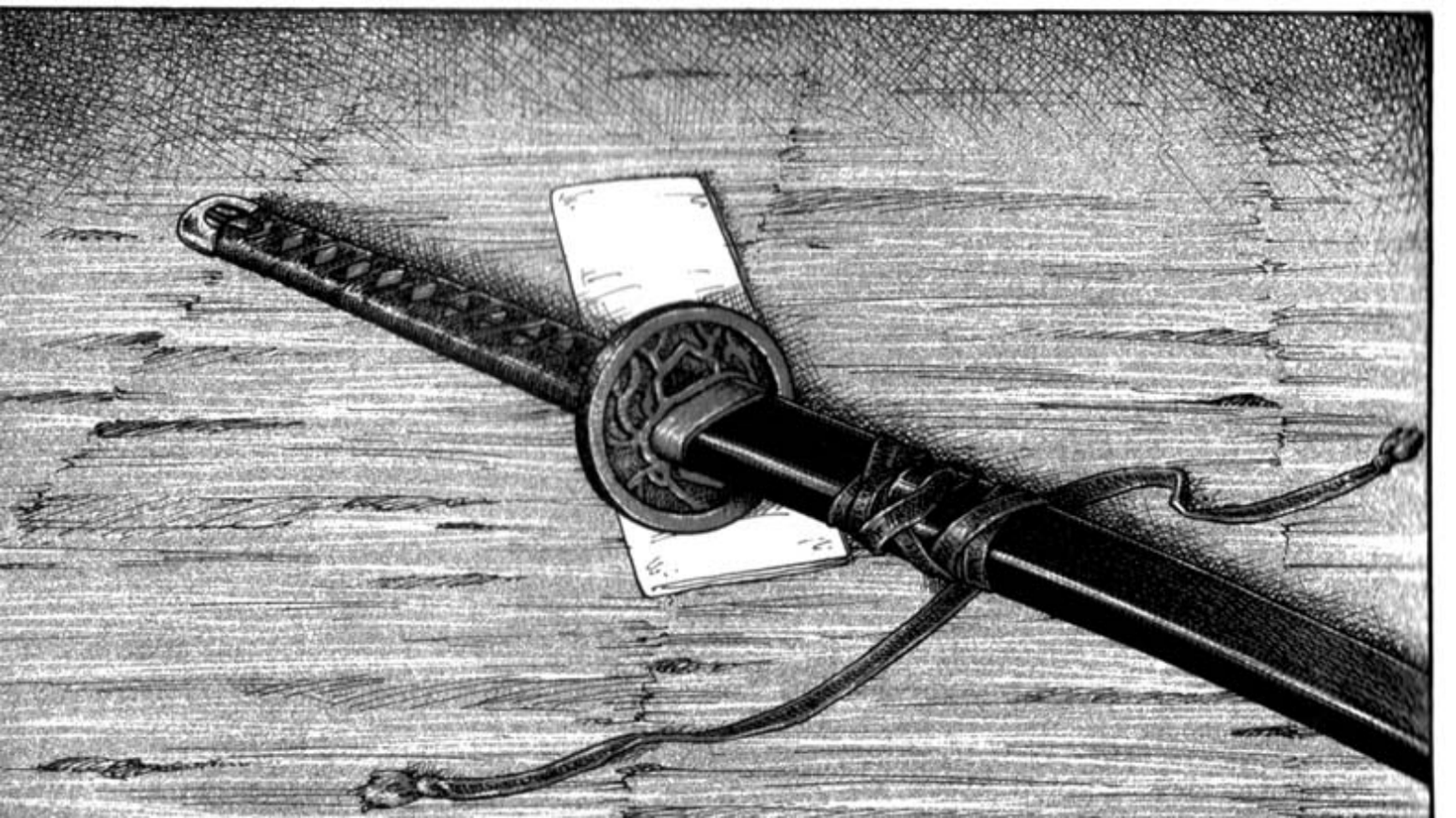
GRR

GRR

WE'LL ATTACK WHEN HE'S SLUGGISH RIGHT AFTER HE EATS!!
BUT IF HE STARTS DRINKING...
WE'LL WAIT A LITTLE LONGER.

I KNOW YOU GUYS DON'T HAVE A LOT...
ARE YOU SURE IT'S ALL RIGHT?

.....



IT'S INCREDIBLE! I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A LONG SWORD.
WHOSE IS IT?
IS IT YOUR PA'S?

WHOA !
WOW !
LOOK AT THIS LONG SWORD!!

AMAZING...
MNCH
IT'S SO LONG. HOW CAN YOU EVEN HANDLE IT...?

FWOOSH

WE COULD WIN.
WITH THAT LONG SWORD...
MNCH MNCH

CHOMP

WE'RE GOING TO DO IT. WE'LL DO WHAT THE OTHERS...
CHOMP
...ARE ALL TOO SCARED TO DO.

WE'RE GOING TO KILL FUDŌ.
MNCH MNCH

HM? A LETTER... WHAT'S IS SAY?

THANK YOU

ありがとう

I GATHERED ALL THE MEN...
WHAT IS IT THAT YOU REQUEST OF US?

I'VE ACCEPTED...
...YOUR ELDER'S REQUEST...
I'LL KILL FUDŌ...
SO WHAT DO YOU ASK OF US?
...TONIGHT.

IF I DIE...
...BEFORE I CAN FINISH FUDŌ OFF...
...!!
...I WANT YOU ALL TO DELIVER THE FINAL BLOW TOGETHER.
I'LL HAVE DIED IN VAIN IF HE ISN'T FINISHED.
HIDE IN THE WOODS WITH YOUR WEAPONS...
...UNTIL FUDŌ AND I CUT EACH OTHER DOWN.

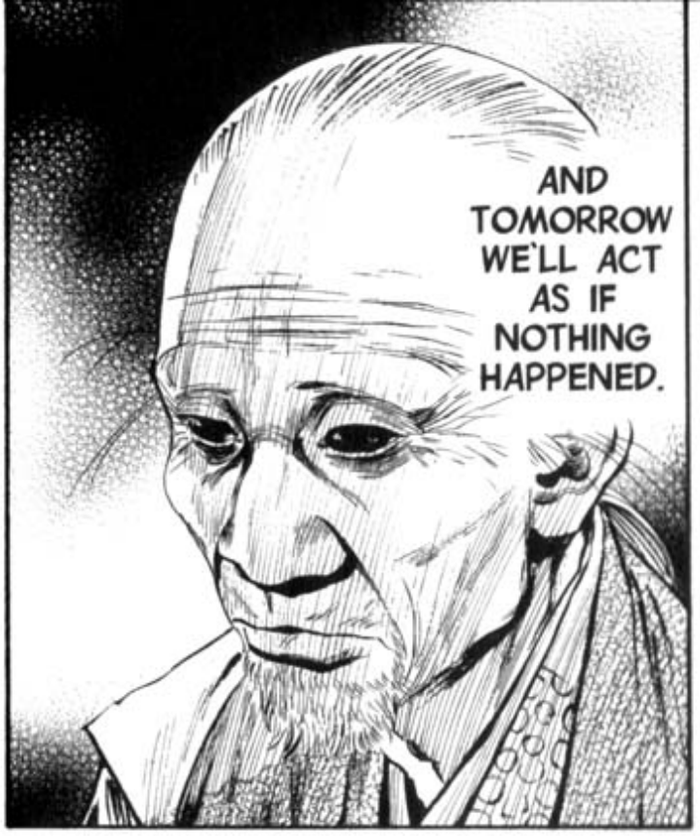
.....
I DON'T KNOW...
ALL RIGHT...

MINE, TOO.

I'LL DO IT. YOU HAVE MY WORD.

AS HE SAID...
WE'LL HIDE IN THE WOODS.
GATHER YOUR WEAPONS.

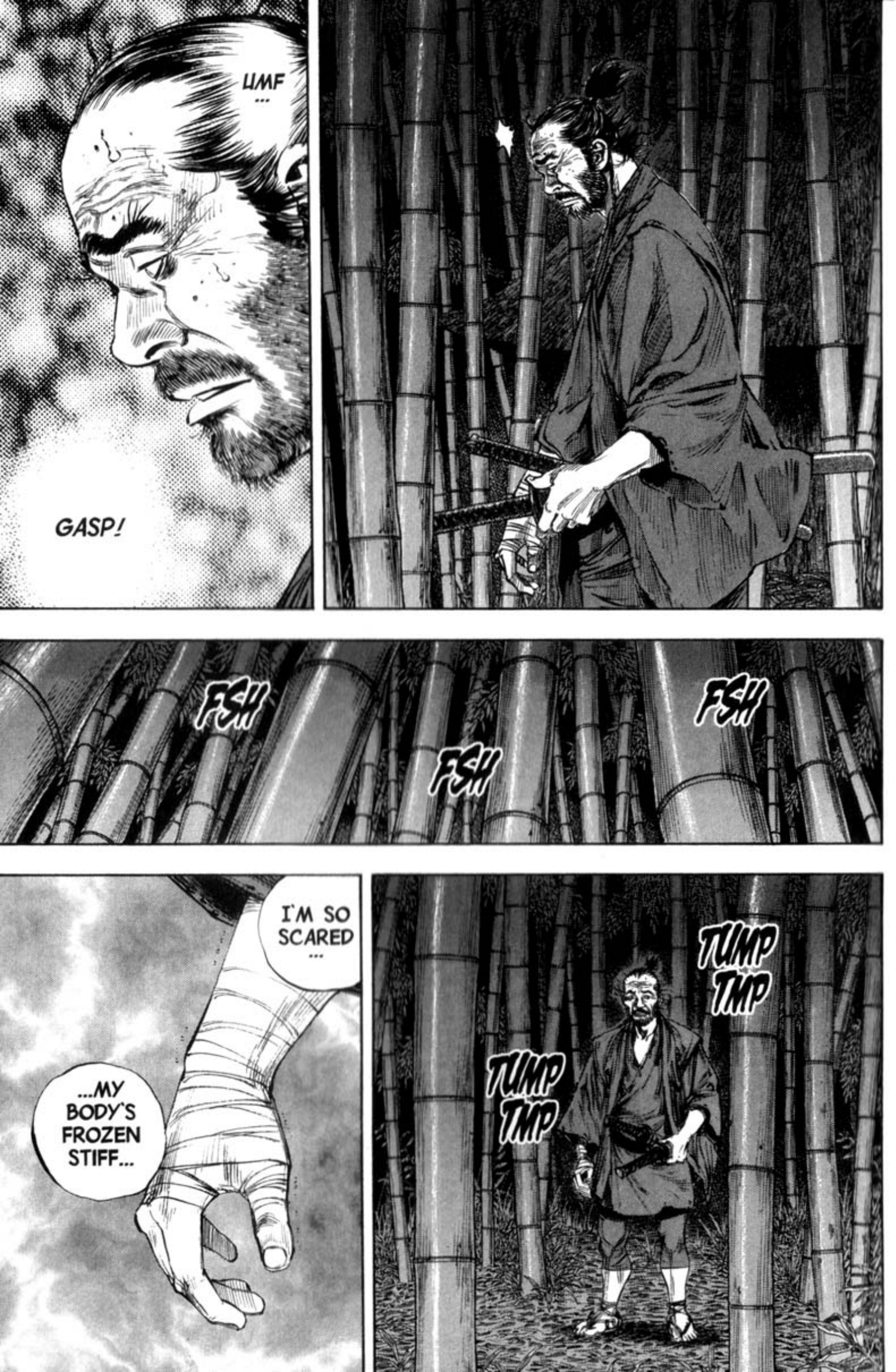
THEN IT'S DECIDED, EVERYONE.
ELDER...


AND TOMORROW WE'LL ACT AS IF NOTHING HAPPENED.

WE'LL JUST CONTINUE HIDING.
IF FUDŌ DOESN'T FALL...

I'LL SET OUT IN HALF AN HOUR.

A HALF AN HOUR, RIGHT.
WE DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY WEAPONS.
WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE DO WITH HOES, SPADES, AND BAMBOO SPEARS.


UMF ...
GASP!
FSH
FSH
FSH
I'M SO SCARED ...
...MY BODY'S FROZEN STIFF...
TUMP TMP
TUMP TMP

HUF
HUF

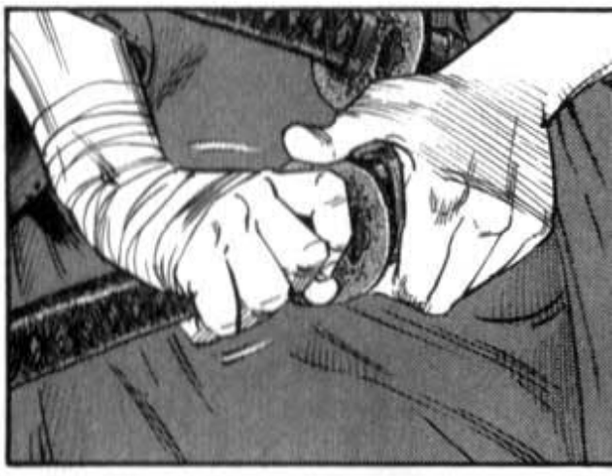
HUFFF
HYUUU

HUF

TUMP TMP
I CAN'T LIFT MY ARMS...!!
TUMP TMP
TUMP TMP

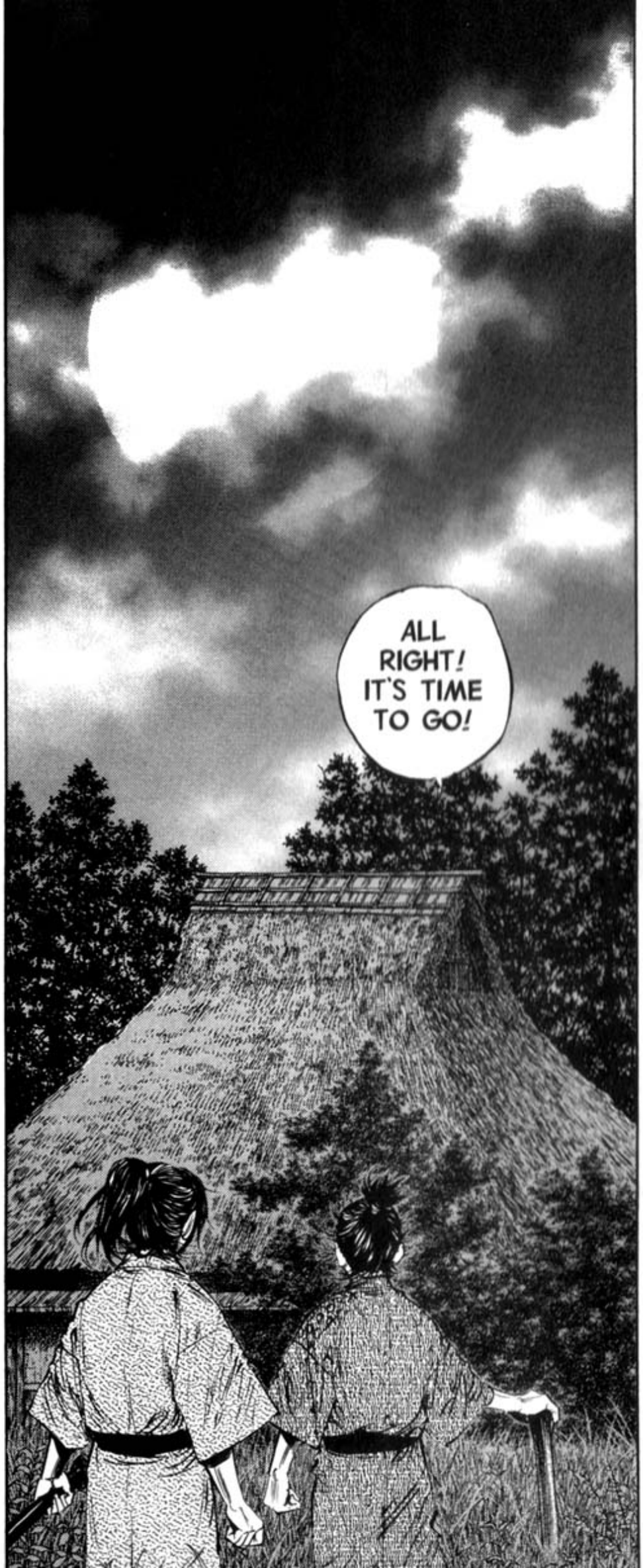
.....

IT HURTS...
I CAN'T HOLD MY SWORD...



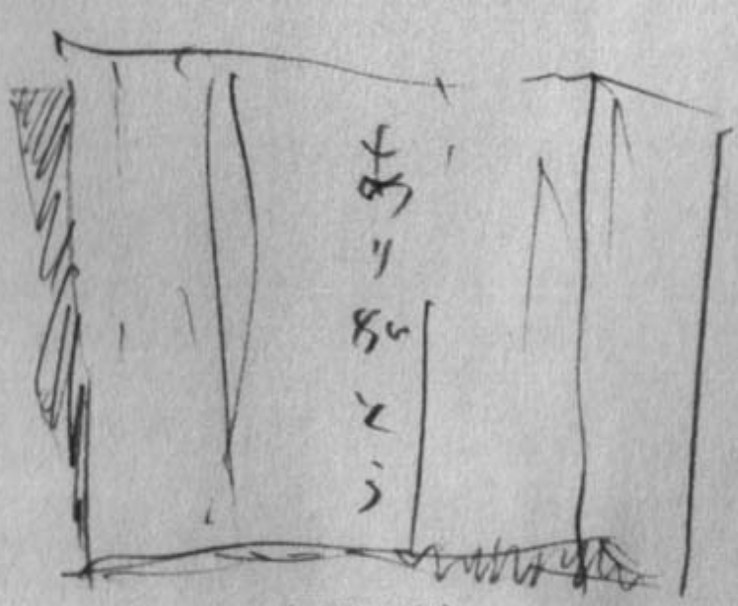
NGHH

ON SECOND THOUGHT ...
TUMP TMP
TUMP TMP
.....
TUMP TMP

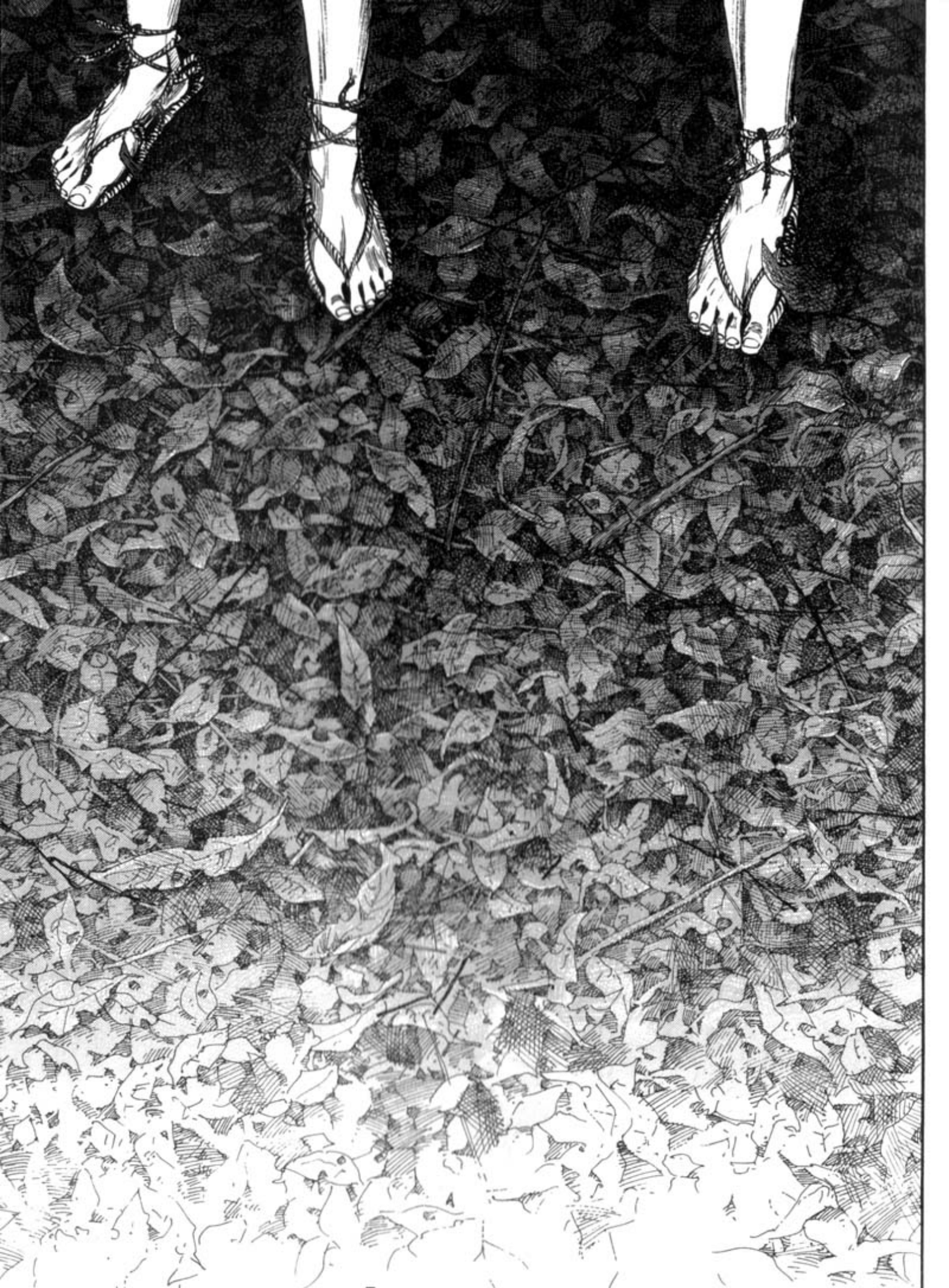

ALL RIGHT! IT'S TIME TO GO!

TUMP
TMP
TUMP
TMP
TUMP
TMP

# Vagabond




(THANK YOU)



# #140 | Flames

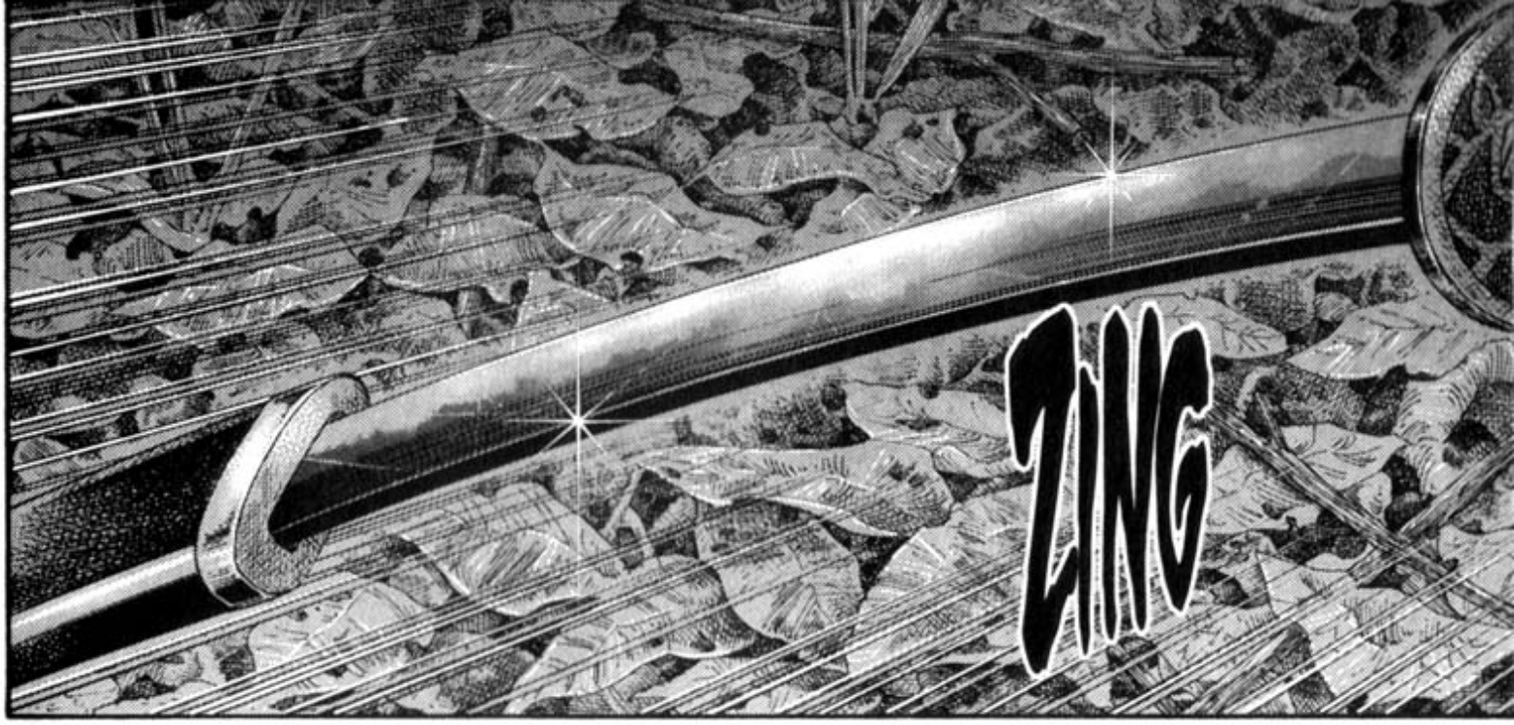
LET'S GO...

HAH!
FSSHHH

HA HA HA!
HERE, HAND IT OVER.

FWP

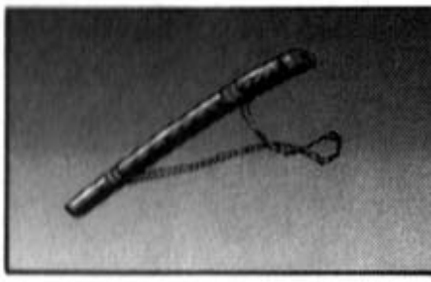
HEY! THAT LOOKS PRETTY GOOD.
GAHH!
HA HA HA!
HA HA HA!


ZING

AHH!

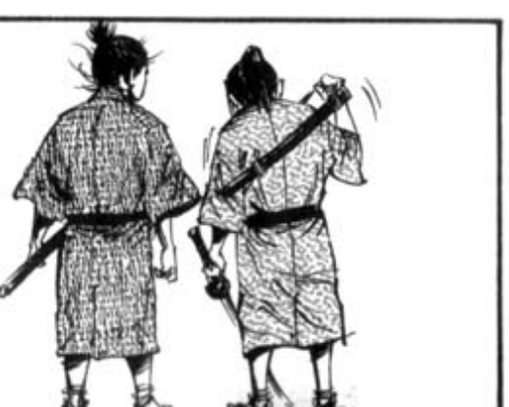
.....

FICH



KOJIRŌ...
KATUNK

WE'RE GOING TO CUT FUDŌ DOWN AND COME BACK ALIVE.
WE'RE NOT GOING TO DIE.



SO YOU'LL NEED THIS TO SHEATHE YOUR SWORD.

TUMP
TMP
TUMP
TMP
TUMP
TMP

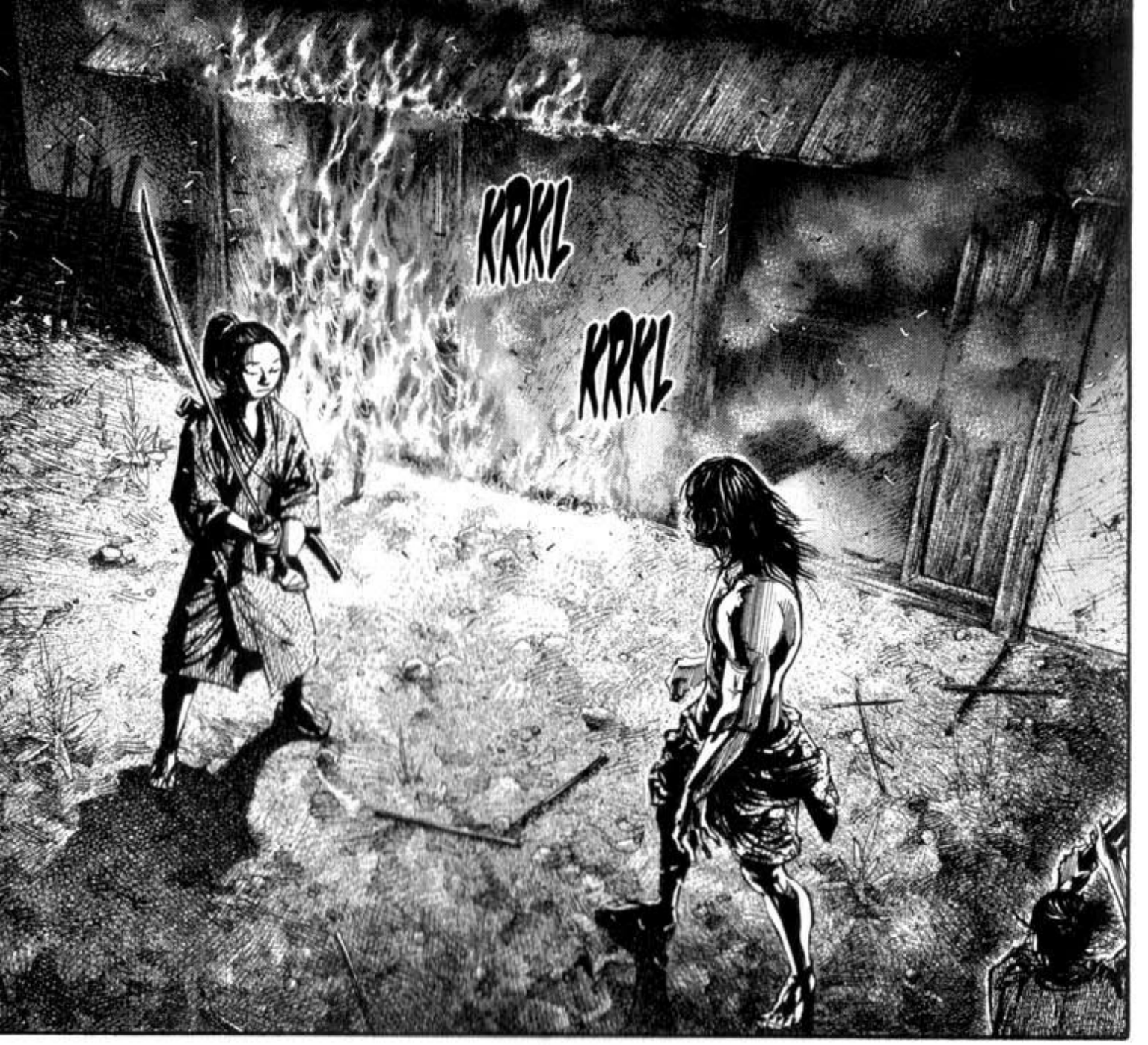
.....
TUMP
TMP

TUMP
TMP

TUMP
TMP

ROAR
FIRE! FIRE!
IT'S A FIRE!!
TWITCH
FICH ?!
A FIRE!!

FWOOSH
YAHH!
FICH


KRKL
KRKL

FWIP
WHAT'S HE DOING ?!

R
O
A
R
R
R

.....

FIP
FIP

R
O
A
R
R
TUMP
TMP
KID...
THAT SWORD'S NOT RIGHT FOR YOU.
HERE I GO, PA!!
TUMP
TMP
TUMP
TMP
THAT SWORD ...
IT SUITS ME.

YAHH!!

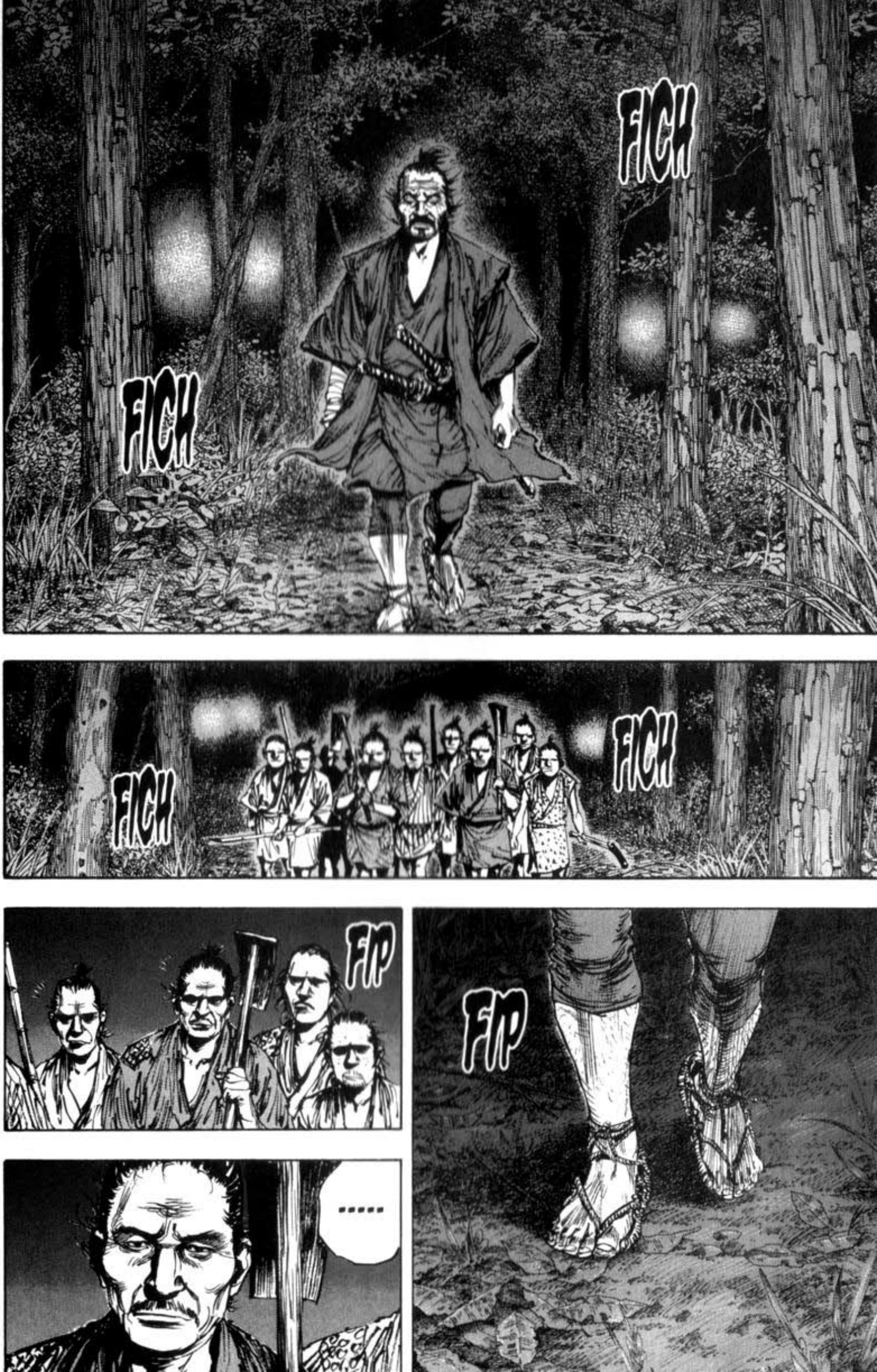
!!

WHUD

SHOULDN'T SHOUT IF YOU'RE GOING TO ATTACK FROM BEHIND...
NOT VERY SMART ...

FICH
FICH

HUF
HUF
HUF


FICH
FICH
FICH
FICH
FIP
FIP
.....

.....
I TOLD YOU THIS WAS A MISTAKE. WE SHOULDN'T HAVE ASKED HIM TO DO THIS.
WHAT'S HE UP TO?
THERE HE GOES AGAIN...
HE KEEPS STOP-PING.
I KNOW.
THUMP
YOU'RE MAKING US NERVOUS, DAMN IT!
COME ON. LET'S GO!
I KNOW...

HEY!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

GET MOVING.

BRR
BRR
BRR
BRR
BRR

TMP

.....

HUH?

WHAT'S THAT?
HEY!

LOOK AT THAT!
OVER WHERE FUDŌ LIVES.
FWP
SENSEI!
IT'S A FIRE!!
...?!

GAHH!!
A KID'S VOICE ?!
WAS THAT ...?
WAS THAT KOJIRŌ ?!
WHAT'S GOING ON OVER THERE?!

ROAR
R
R
R

FSHHH

YOU CUT OFF MY PA'S ARM.
HE'S BEEN BEDRIDDEN EVER SINCE THEN!!

YOU...
YOU...

SLSH
HUF
HUF
HUF

...I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU KIDS...
...WANT TO KILL ME...

FEAR IS STRONGER THAN REVENGE...
REVENGE, EH...?
THAT'S WHY...
THAT'S WHY...
I DON'T WANT TO KILL A KID...
A KID...
I'LL CARVE A FEAR INTO YOU THAT YOU'LL NEVER FORGET...

AHHH!
THACK

?!
I'M SURPRISED YOU CAN HANDLE THAT SWORD.
HMM...

HUH?

WHAT THE--?!

KOJIRŌ!
FICH
FICH
FICH
FICH
KOJIRŌ!!!

# Vagabond

CKATUNK)

# #141

# Sword Against Sword

WHAT THE--?!

WWUM
WUM
WHUD

FWINCH
TGG
RRIP

AHA!

WHAT WAS TWO IS NOW ONE.
IN A SENSE IT'S LESS DISTRACT-ING.

AH...

FWOOSH
UMF!
THE SWORD... I'M OUT OF PRACTICE.
HMM...
HMM...
NO...
UMF!
THAT'S NO GOOD.
UMF!
UMF!

FWOOSH
UMF!
THAT'S IT...
AHA!
FWOOSH
FWOOSH
THAT'S IT...

RATHER THAN BEING ON TOP, IT'S BETTER TO WORK YOUR WAY UPHILL...

HEH HEH HEH...

AHH!

THE WAY OF THE SWORD IS MAG-NIFICENT.

CUT SOMEONE FOR THE FIRST TIME, DID YOU?

IT'S TOO HEAVY FOR YOU.

AHH!
FWOOSH
FWOOSH

HUF
HUF
IT'S A GOOD SWORD.
I WANT IT.
HUF
HUF
HUF
GIVE IT TO ME.

KI
AK
NNGH
...
KOJIRŌ
...

THWAK
GRT
I LIKE IT...
IT'S LONG.
HAH!

I'LL CALL IT "THE DRYING POLE."

AHH...
AH...

KAMEKICHI!

THUNK
ARRGH
...
THUMP

FHUMP
TUMP

KATHUNK

SHUNK

SLASH

SPLSH

# Vagabond

#142 Savior

HE CUT HIM DOWN.

H-HE...
HE WON.

HE DID IT...
HE CUT MASTER FUDŌ DOWN.

FICH
FICH
HE CUT THAT MONSTER DOWN!!
FICH

HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF

AHHH!
TP
TP
TP
TP
TP

FWOOSH
THUNK
KOJIRŌ!

FWAK
SLAP
SLAP
!?

THOK
!!
FICH
FICH
FICH
YAHH!!
TAKE THIS!
TUNK
TUNK
YOU MONSTER !!

TAKE THIS.
TUNK
YOU BASTARD !
TUNK
TUNK
TUNK
YOU GET WHAT YOU DESERVE.
HUF
HUF
HUF

NNGH ...

MONSTER ...

WHUD

HUF
NNGH
GET ME SOME ALCOHOL.
GET ME SOME SHOCHU!
HAK...
HAKK
THAT LONG SWORD ...
...WITH ONE ARM...
HOW MANY PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD...
...COULD SWING THAT LONG SWORD AROUND ONE-HANDED?
A MUCH MORE RENOWNED NAME...
HE MIGHT HAVE GONE BY ANOTHER NAME IN THE PAST.
FUDŌ YUGE-TSUSAI...

AND YOU, KOJIRŌ...
WAS IT YOU WHO CUT OFF FUDŌ'S RIGHT ARM?
DID YOU DO THAT?
.....

BON
BO

BU

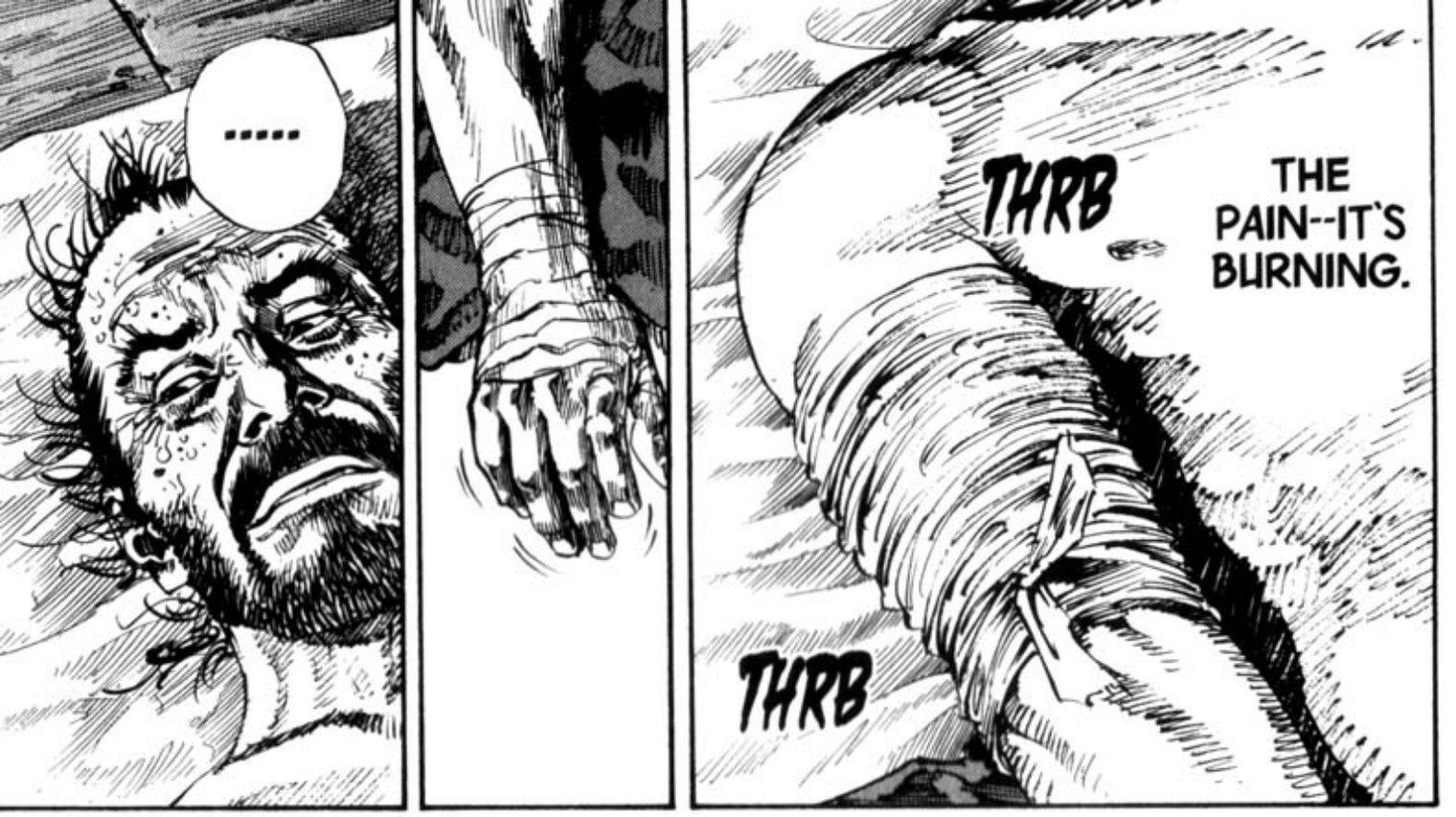
BOO
BOO
BOO

BON
BOBON

YEAH !!
NOW WE'LL HAVE PEACE!!

THE MONSTER'S DEAD!!

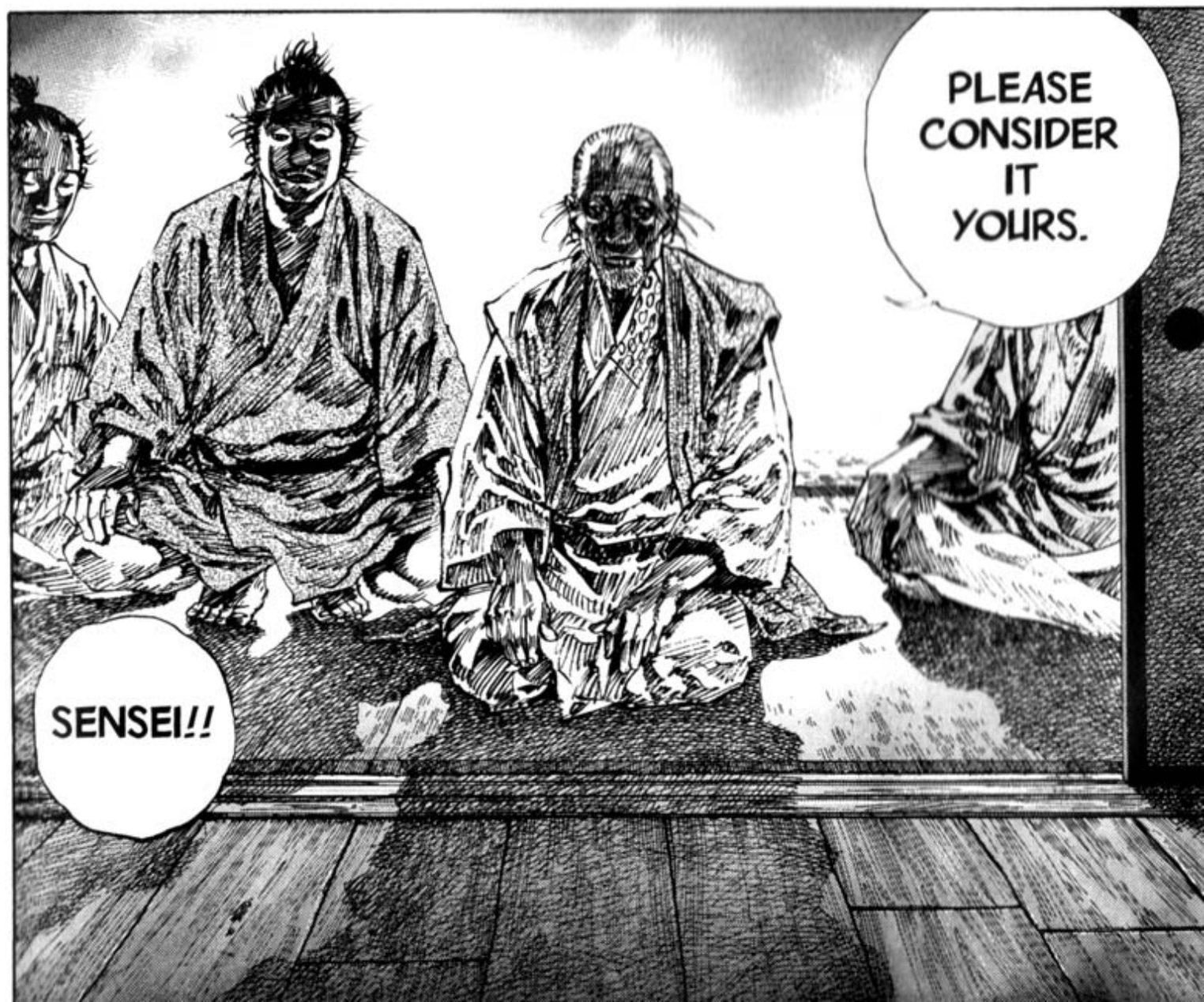
IT'S ALL THANKS TO KANEMAKI SENSEI!!


.....
THRB
THE PAIN--IT'S BURNING.
THRB

WON'T BE ABLE TO USE MY RIGHT ARM PROPERLY EVER AGAIN...

GOOD NEWS!
GOSUKE AND KAMEKICHI ARE GOING TO BE FINE.
THAT'S GREAT!!

KANE-MAKI SENSEI.
NO ONE OCCUPIES THIS HOUSE ANYMORE.
SURE, IT'S A GREAT PLACE!
IT'LL BE NICE IF A LITTLE WORK IS DONE ON IT.
THIS HOUSE ...

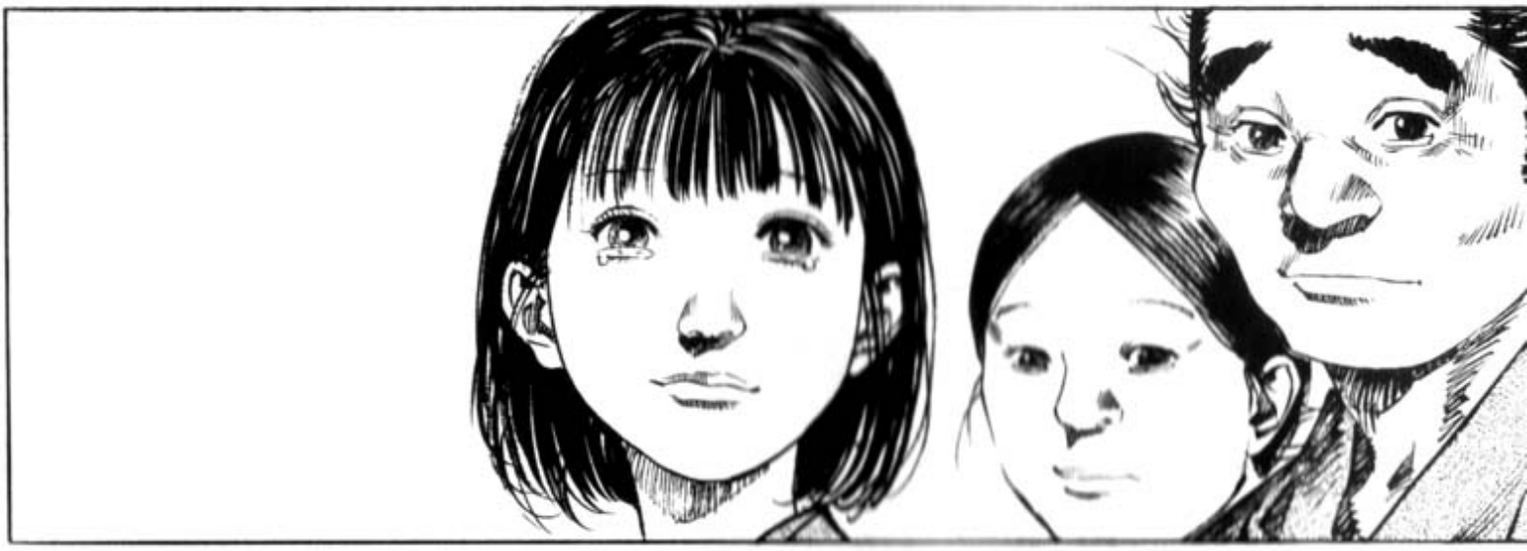

PLEASE CONSIDER IT YOURS.
SENSEI!!

HMM...
.....

SO NOW IT'S MY TURN...?
I'M THE SAVIOR OF THIS VILLAGE?

NO, THANKS...
THE SHACK WE LIVE IN NOW SUITS US FINE.

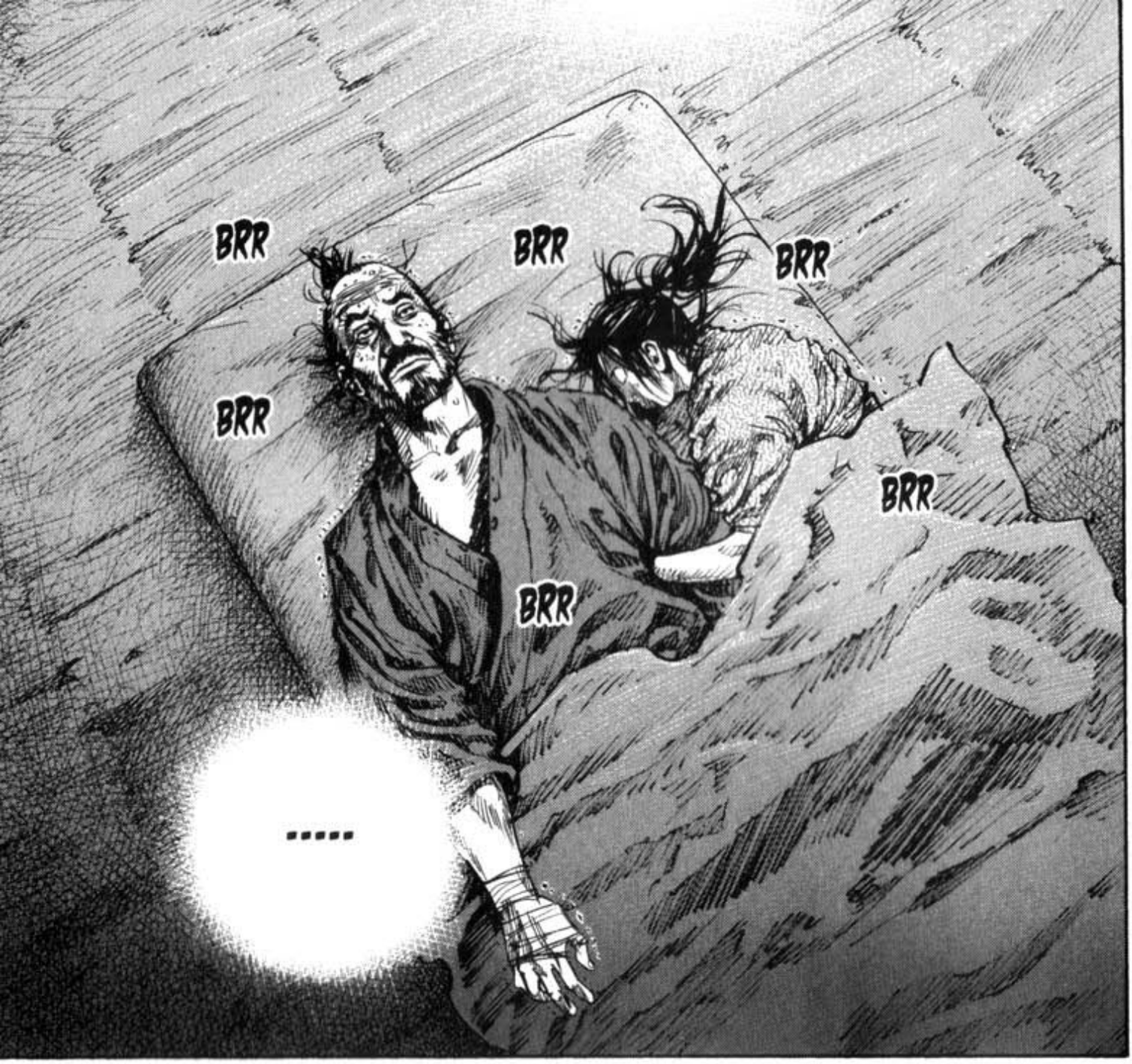
.....
FICH



KOJIRŌ...

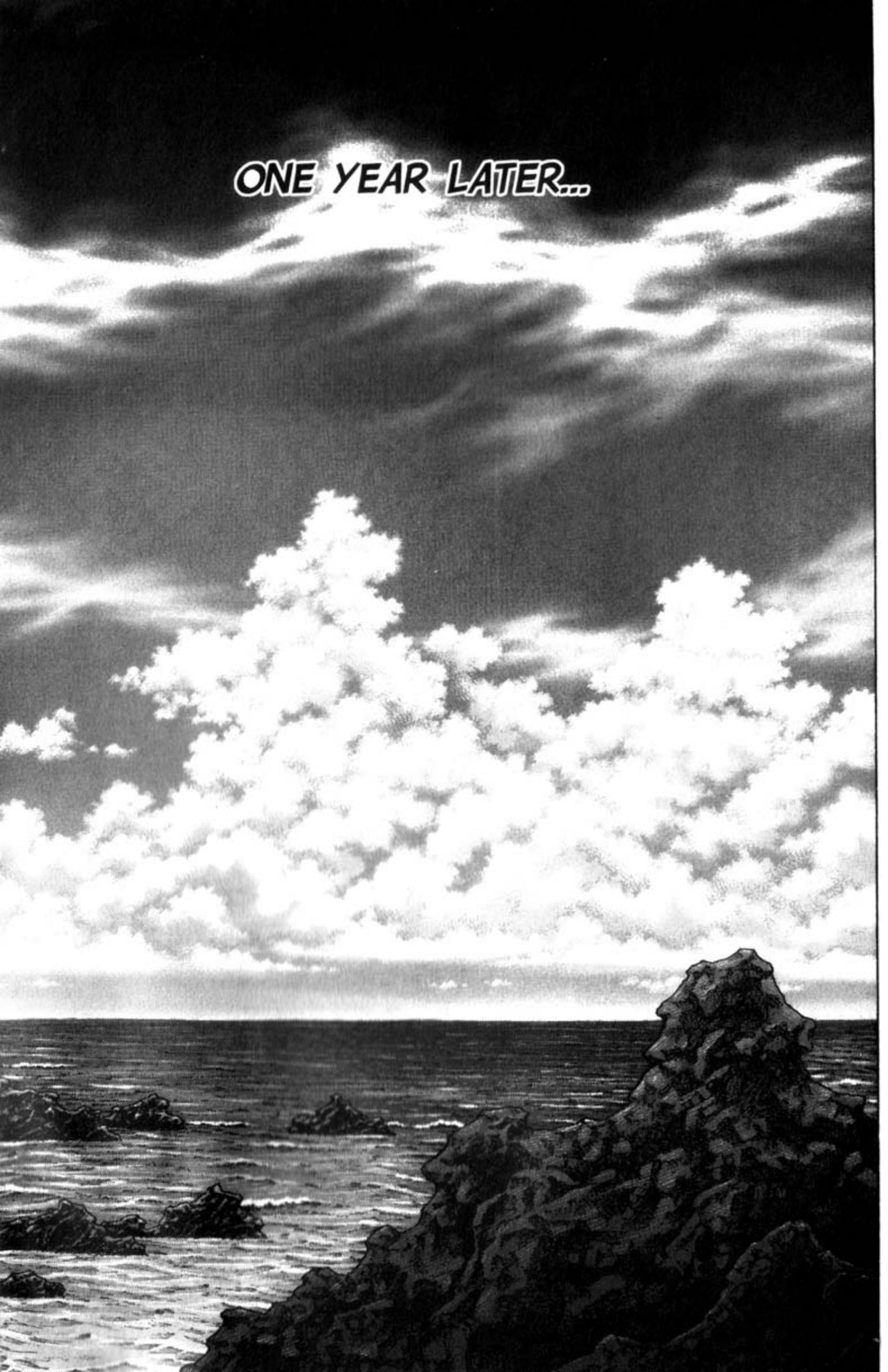
WHAT WERE YOU DOING? WHY WERE YOU THERE...?

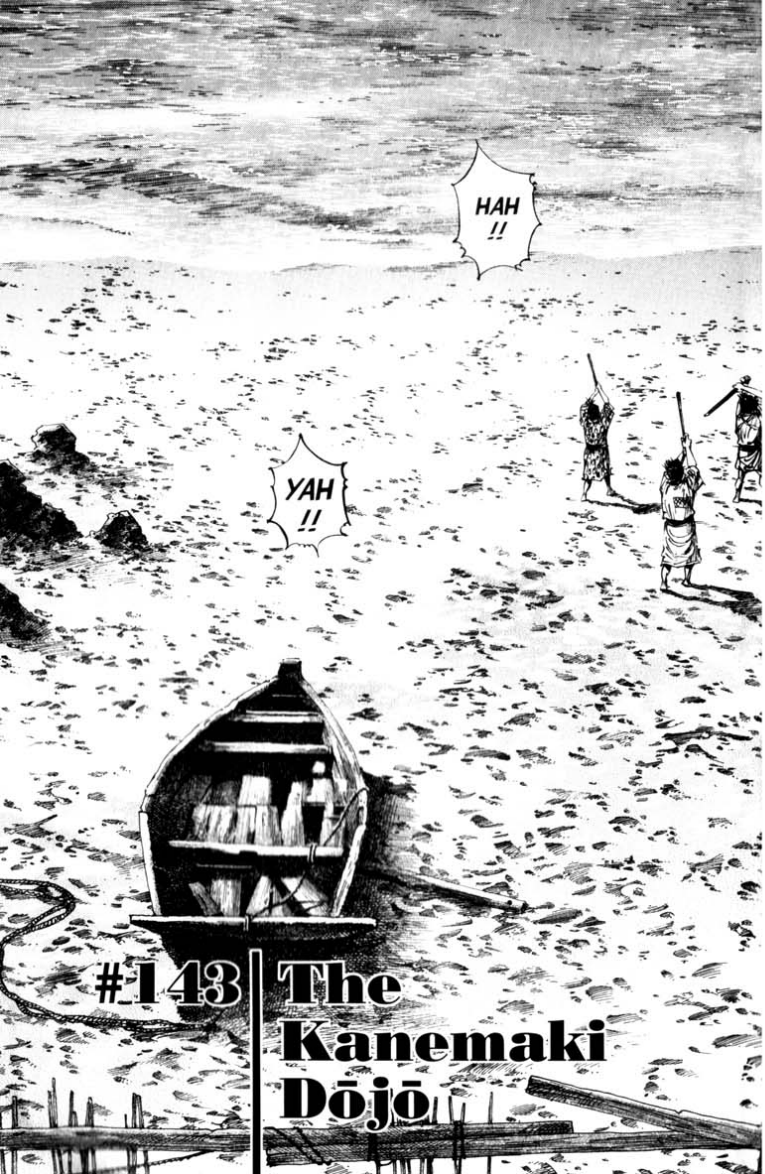
AHH...
BRR
BRR
BRR
BRR


BRR
BRR
BRR
BRR
BRR
BRR
.....

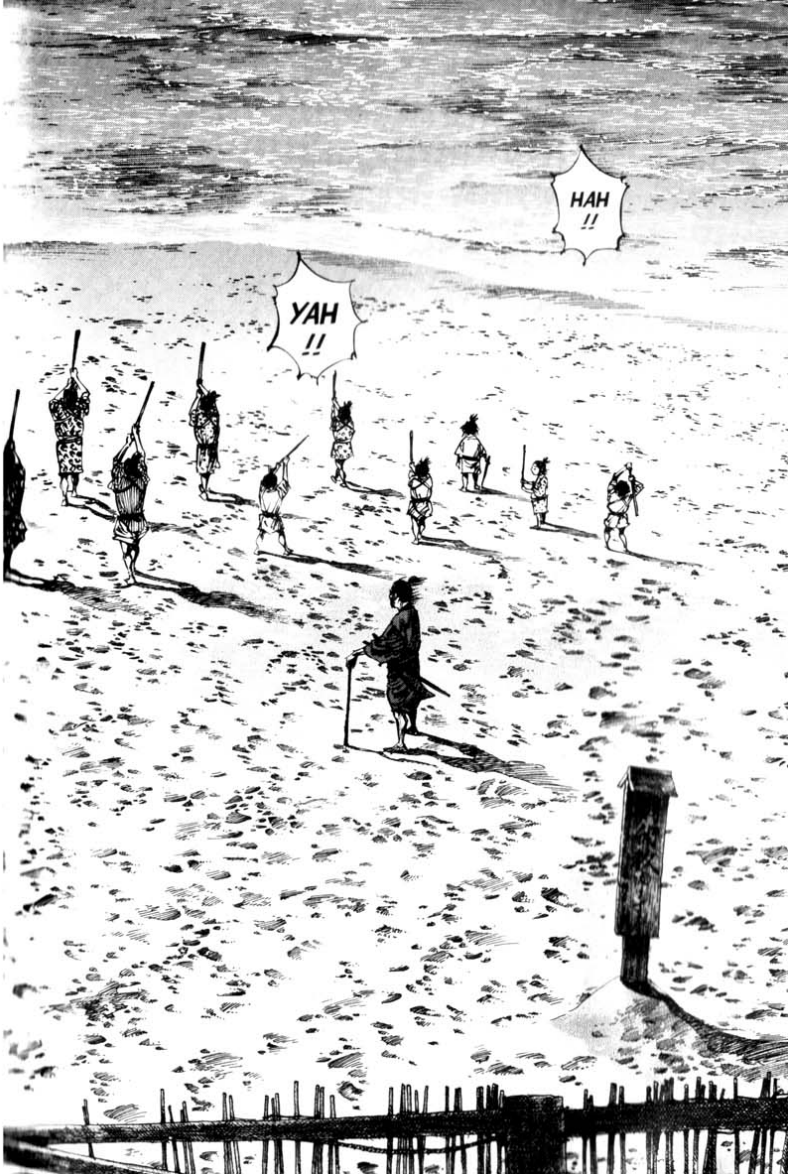
FSSSHH
剣術教えます
FSSSHH

Vagabond


ONE YEAR LATER...




# #143 The Kanemaki Dōjō

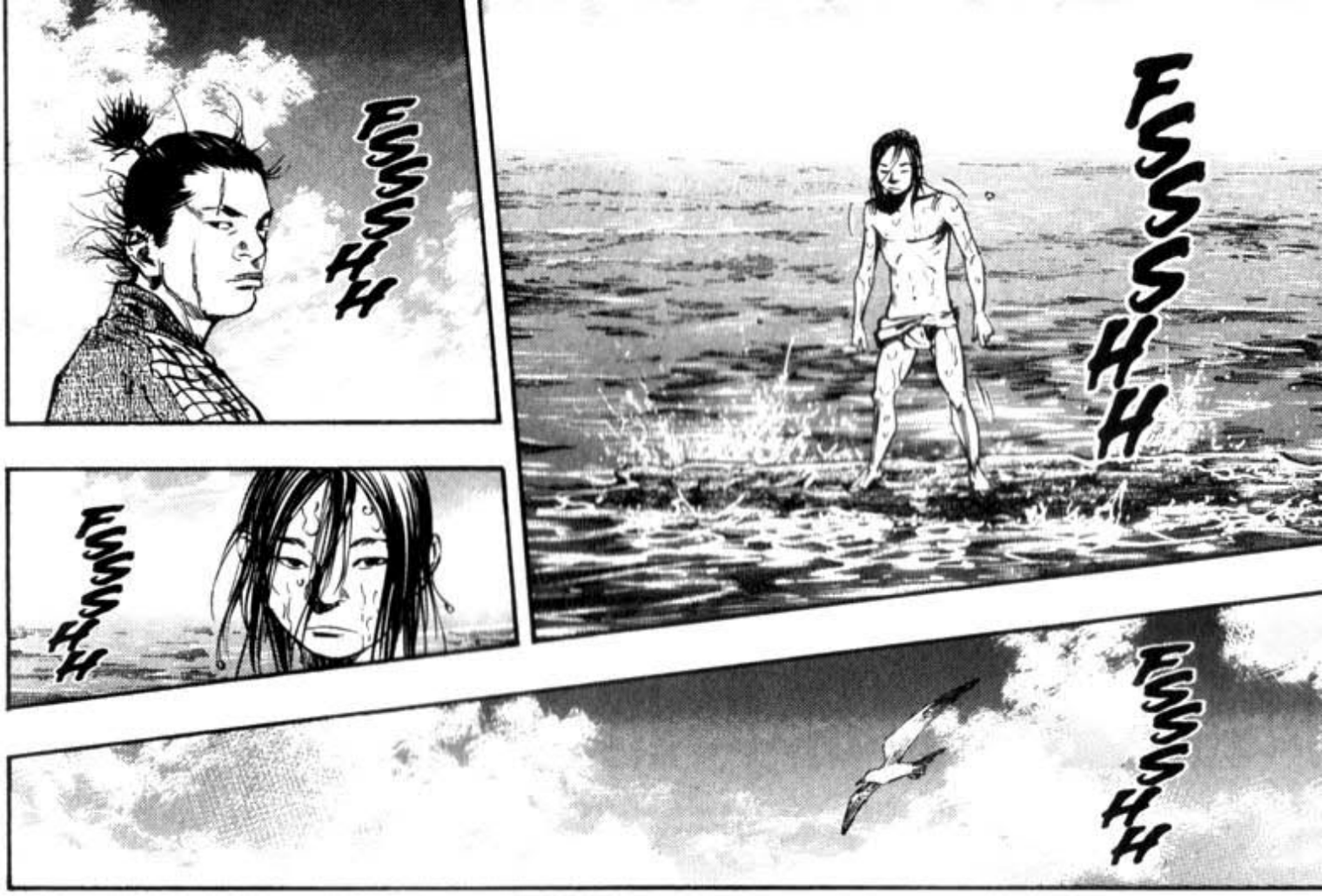


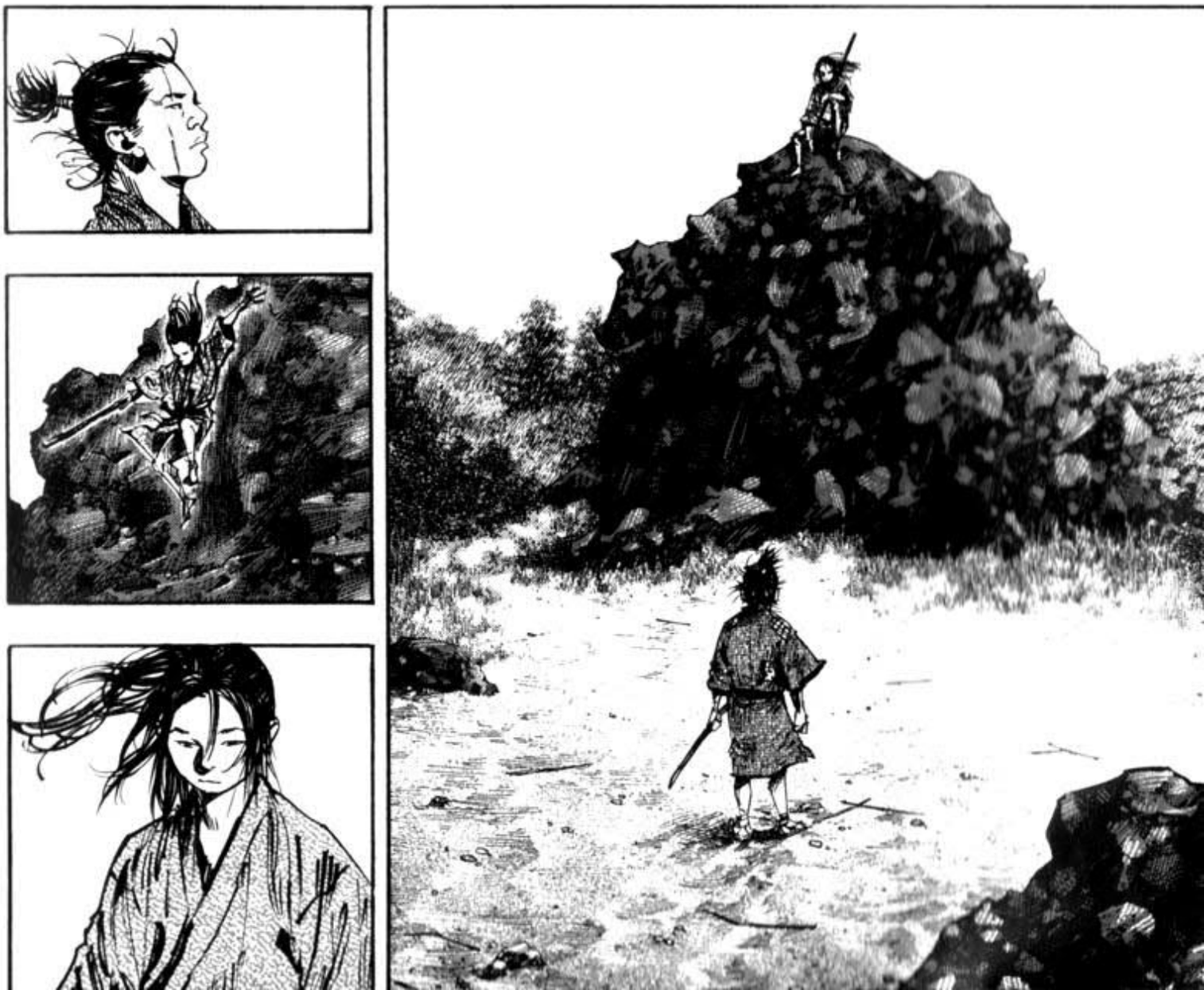
YAHH !
YAH !
UMF !
YAH !
HAH !
HAH !

FWOOSH
SPLSH
SPLSH
FSH
.....
YAHH!!
YAHH!!

NNGH!
TUNK
THUNK
AH!
THAT'S ENOUGH.
I SUR-RENDER!
I SUR-RENDER!
AHH!

MY ENTIRE BODY...
PUT YOUR ENTIRE BODY INTO THE SWORD.
YOU STILL JUST SWING YOUR SWORD AROUND AND RESORT TO CHEAP TRICKS...
YES, SIR...
IT'S GETTING HOT...
THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY.
SIR...
YOU MUST PUT YOUR BODY BEHIND IT-- NOT JUST YOUR ARMS.
I'M GOING TO BECOME STRONG.
...LIKE KANEMAKI SENSEI.
I'M GOING TO BECOME STRONG...


FSSSHH
FSSSHH
FSSSHH
FSSSHH



FICH
YAHHH!
!!
FICH
FICH
FWOOSH

FWOOSH
!!
NNGH!
TUNK
HIS EYES...
HIS EYES ARE SO SHARP!!

!!
FWOOSH

AHH!

DAMN!
I CAN'T EVEN GET ONE HIT IN!!

HOW CAN YOU EVEN SEE? YOUR EYES ARE BARELY OPEN...

DAMN...
I CAN EASILY BEST EVERY ADULT HERE...
...BUT I STILL CAN'T BEAT YOU.

YOU COMPLETELY SEE RIGHT THROUGH MY SWORD...
DAMN...

I'M SORRY I'M NOT MUCH HELP...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
.....
KTNK
KTNK
OH...
SENSEI ...
THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY...

WHO'S THAT?
YOU KNOW WHO THAT IS--IT'S ORIN, MY DAUGHTER.
YOU SACRIFICED THAT ARM IN ORDER TO SAVE OUR VILLAGE.
WE CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH...
THEY GROW UP SO QUICKLY...
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ME, SENSEI?
HA HA
HMM...

I'M NOT TEACHING YOU.

AHH...
FICH
I'M NOT TEACHING YOU THE SWORD.

I MADE UP MY MIND WHEN I SAW THE WAY YOU ATTACKED FUDŌ EVEN AFTER HE WAS ALREADY DEAD.
THERE'S A BEAST INSIDE YOU--
NO, EVEN A BEAST WOULDN'T DO THAT.

KOJIRŌ...
I WON'T ALLOW THAT MADNESS WITHIN YOU TO AWAKEN.

SHF
SHF

I WON'T TEACH YOU THE SWORD.
AND I HID THE LONG SWORD.
Again...

THAT'S WHY I WON'T DO IT.

WWOOSH

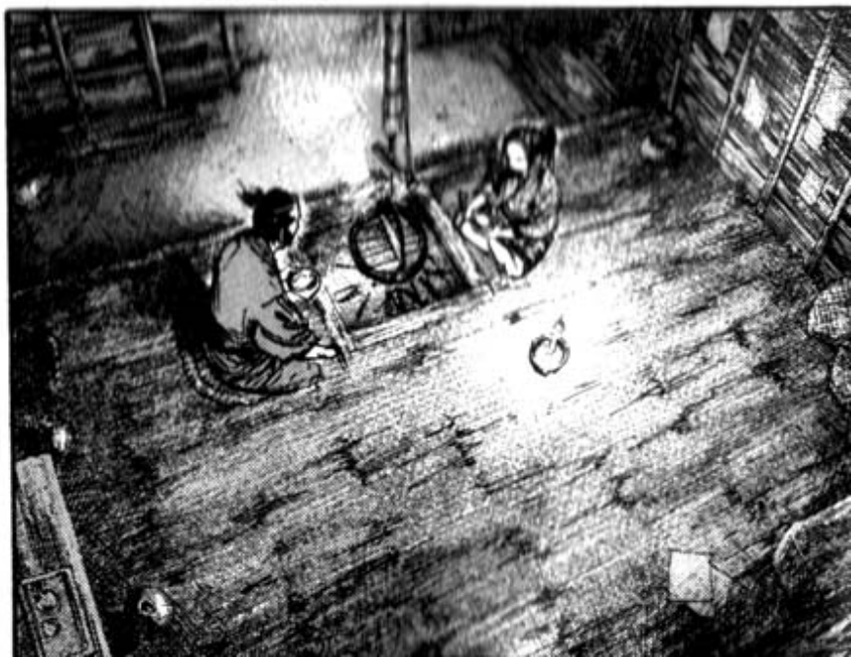
FWOOSH
AHH!
FWOOM

KLAK
TUNK
TUNK
THUNK

I TOLD YOU, I'M NOT TEACHING YOU ANY-THING.
AHHH!!
UNGH
THUNK
WHUD

STRONG

STRONG



MNCH MNCH
YOU'RE NOT A BEAST.
YOU'RE HUMAN AND HUMANS DON'T MAKE SO MUCH NOISE WHEN THEY EAT.

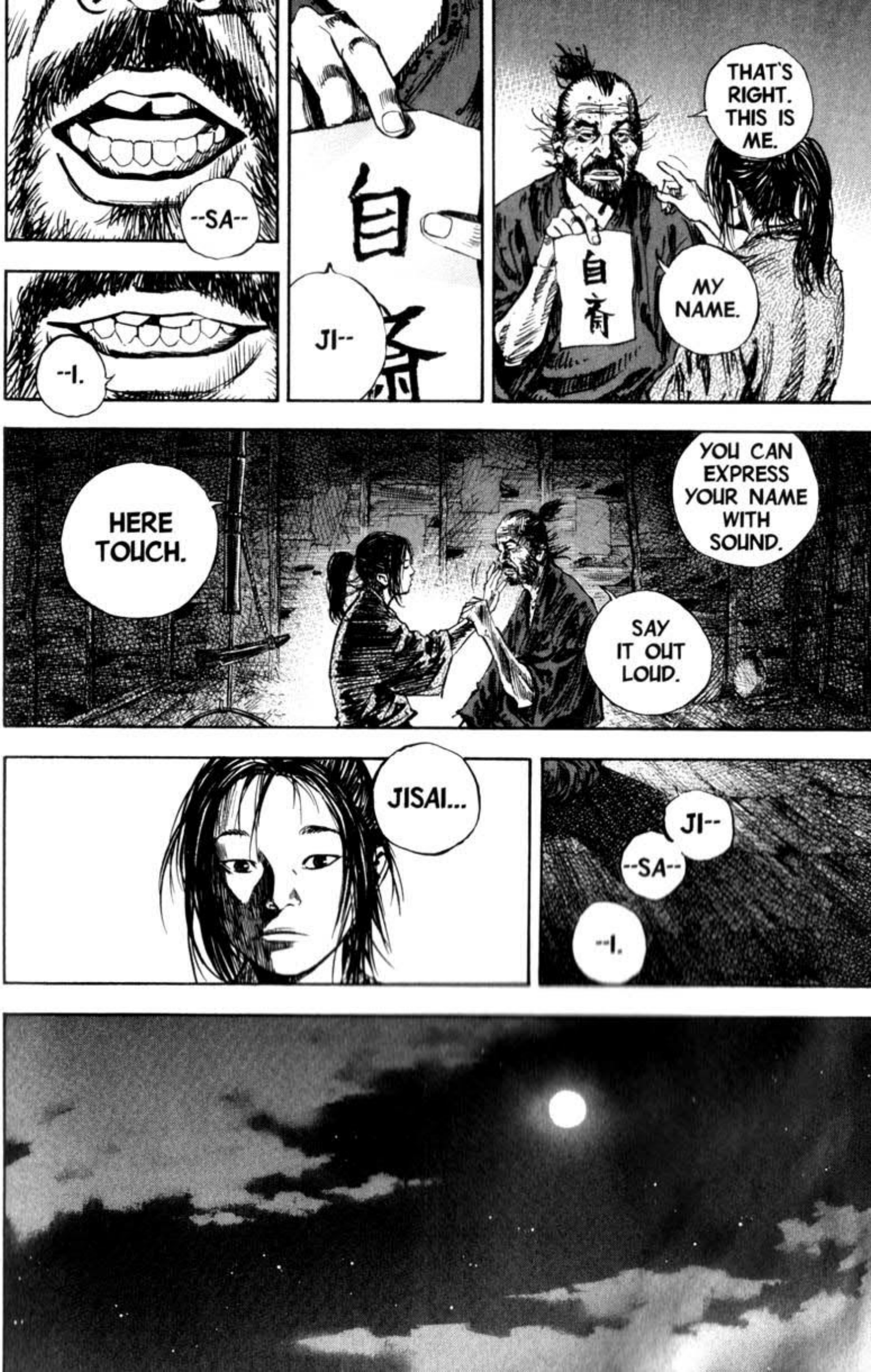
MNCH MNCH
MNCH MNCH

SOUND ...
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT IS, DO YOU?

MNCH MNCH
THERE'S AN ENTIRE WORLD OF SOUND OUT THERE...
KNNK

JISAI

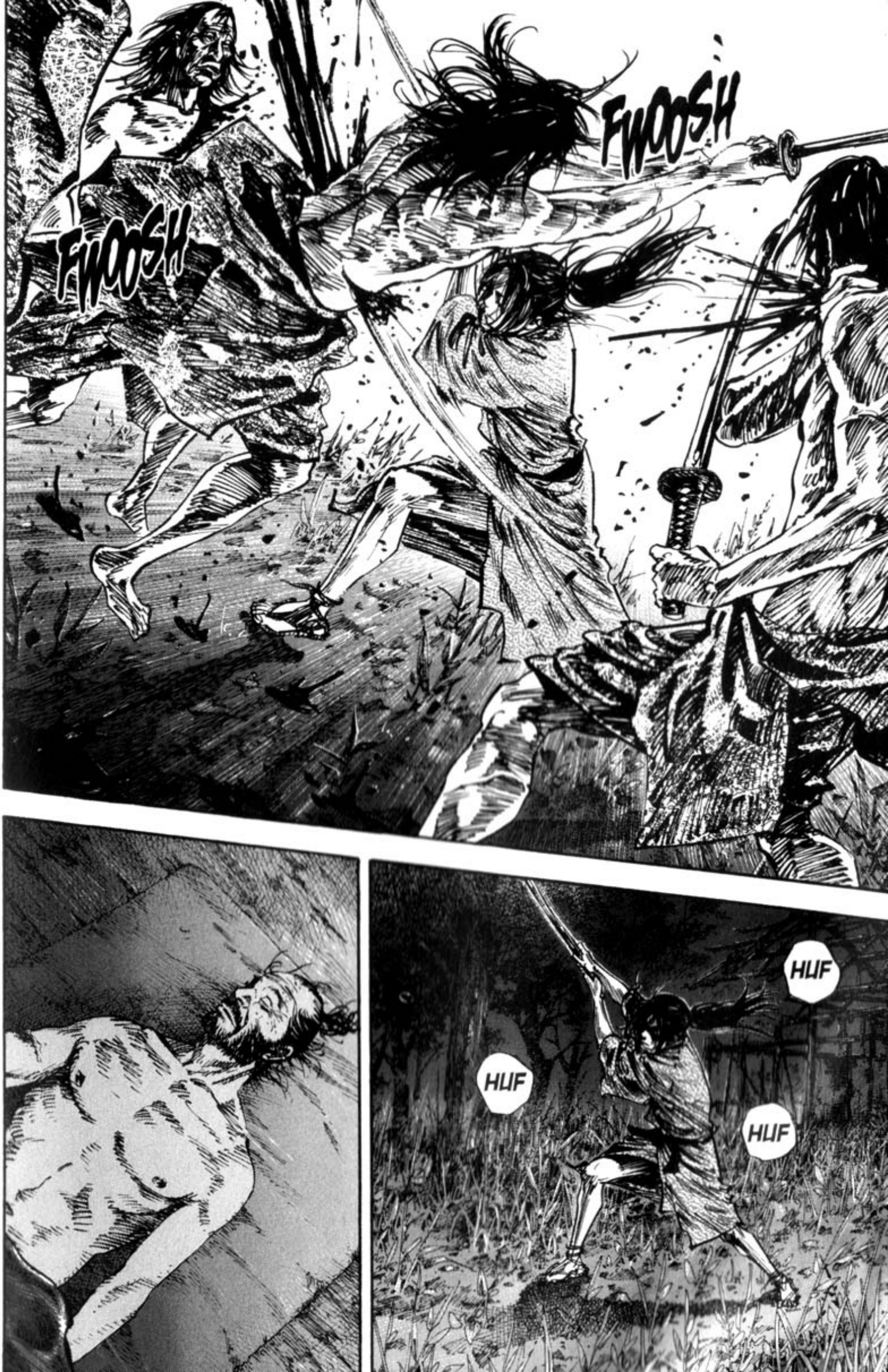
自斉


--SA--
--I.
自
JI--
自斎
THAT'S RIGHT. THIS IS ME.
MY NAME.
HERE TOUCH.
YOU CAN EXPRESS YOUR NAME WITH SOUND.
SAY IT OUT LOUD.
JISAI...
JI--
--SA--
--I.

FWOOSH
FWOOSH

HUF
HUF
HUF
FWOOSH
FWOOSH
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF

HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF


FWOOSH
FWOOSH
HUF
HUF
HUF

# About the Author

*VAGABOND* was created by Takehiko Inoue, author of the best-selling manga *SLAM DUNK*, with over 100 million copies in print worldwide. Inoue received the 2000 Media Arts award for Manga from the Japanese Ministry of Culture as well as the 2000 Kodansha Award for best manga for his work on *VAGABOND*. In 2002, *VAGABOND* received the prestigious Tezuka award for best manga. Most recently, Inoue has been nominated for a 2003 Eisner Award for best writer/artist. To date *VAGABOND* has sold over 22 million copies throughout the world. In addition to his numerous manga titles, Inoue also created the character designs for the PlayStation basketball game, *ONE ON ONE*.

# About *VAGABOND* and Miyamoto Musashi

Takehiko Inoue's *VAGABOND*, based on Eiji Yoshikawa's novel *MUSASHI*, is a fictional account of the life of Miyamoto Musashi (1584-1645). The historical figure Miyamoto Musashi, author of the philosophical strategy guide *A BOOK OF FIVE RINGS*, was a master of the sword and was revered as a "sword-saint." He founded the Niten Ichi style of sword fighting, which is typified by fighting with both long and short swords at once—holding the long sword with the right hand and the short sword with the left. Musashi was also a master of the "gentler arts"—he was a master of *sumi-e* (black ink drawings), metalworking, and woodcarving. The films that comprise *THE SAMURAI TRILOGY* directed by Hiroshi Inagaki and starring Toshiro Mifune, were also based on Yoshikawa's *MUSASHI*. Inspired by the huge success of *VAGABOND* in Japan, in 2003 NHK produced the historical period drama *MUSASHI*. Also based on Yoshikawa's novel, this drama stars kabuki actor Shinnosuke Ichikawa as Musashi and TV star Ryoko Yonekura as Otsu.

# A note on names:

The names presented within the context of this comic are presented in the traditional Japanese order—surname followed by first name. "Miyamoto" is Miyamoto Musashi's last name and "Musashi" is his first name. The name of the creator of *VAGABOND*, however, has been presented first name first, last name second. "Takehiko" is the author's first name and "Inoue" is his last name.

# Glossary and Extraneous Background Information

**Ito Ittosai** (Dates unknown)
Founder of the Itto-ryu school of sword fighting. Before establishing his own style, Ittosai is said to have studied a variant of the Chujo-ryu style of sword fighting under Kanemaki Jisai's instruction.

**Sasaki Kojiro**
The legendary archrival of Miyamoto Musashi. Kojiro is believed to have studied the Chujo-ryu style of swordsmanship under the instruction of either Toda Seigen or Kanemaki Jisai. Kojiro was renowned for his *Tubame-gaeshi*, or "swallow-cut" technique which was inspired by the movement of a swallow in flight.

**The Sengoku Period and the Battle of Sekigahara**
The Warring States or *Sengoku* period (1482-1558) in Japan was a time of chaos and conflict. Central authorities, in the form of the imperial court and the shogunate, had grown increasingly weaker and the land was effectively ruled autonomously by numerous *daimyo* (domainal lords). Looking to expand their spheres of control, the *daimyo* were constantly at war with each other. One *daimyo* in particular, Oda Nobunaga, set out on a mission to unify Japan by means of conquest. Incredibly successful, by the time of his assassination in 1582, he managed to control approximately one-third of all of Japan. One of Nobunaga's chief generals, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, became Nobunaga's successor to carry on the quest for unification. Through a process of conquest and conciliation, Hideyoshi succeeded in creating an orderly federation amongst the *daimyo*, and by 1590, order was restored to Japan under Hideyoshi's rule. Hideyoshi's death in 1598, however, presented the question of succession. Most of the *daimyo* from the domains in the west remained loyal to the Toyotomi Clan and its five-year-old heir, Toyotomi Hideyori. Tokugawa Ieyasu, however, leading the major *daimyo* from central and eastern Japan, challenged the Toyotomi clan's leadership. The two sides clashed at the Battle of Sekigahara (1600) in Mino (located in present day Gifu Prefecture) where the Tokugawa claimed an overwhelming victory. From that point on, the Tokugawa clan would effectively rule Japan for the next 250 years.

**Takuan Soho** (1573-1645)
A monk of the Rinzai sect of Zen Buddhism, by the time Takuan was 37, he was appointed abbot of the leading temple of the Rinzai sect, Daitokuji. Takuan was an important figure whose acute and brutally honest advice was sought by influential and powerful figures such as Emperor Go Mizuno and the shogun Tokugawa Iemitsu. His correspondence to Yagyu Munenori discussing Zen and swordsmanship entitled *THE UNFETTERED MIND* has become an influential treatise in both the areas of philosophy and martial arts. The pickled daikon radish, *takuan*, also bears his name.

**The Yagyu Clan**
Yagyu Muneyoshi Sekishusai (1527-1606) was the founder of the famed Yagyu-Shinkage school of sword fighting. His son Yagyu Munenori (1571-1646) was one of Tokugawa's key generals at the Battle of Sekigahara. Munenori was appointed as the official fencing instructor of the Tokugawa Clan, and in 1632 the Yagyu were appointed as the *ometsuke*—responsible for the surveillance of the *daimyo*. Although the Yagyu clan has been depicted in Kazuo Koike's *LONE WOLF AND CUB* as the plotters of the downfall of Itto Ogami, the general Japanese popular culture take on the Yagyu Clan is more positive. More specifically, Munenori's son, Yagyu Jubei (1607-1650), is viewed as a wandering hero protecting the people from evildoers.

**Yoshioka Kempo** (dates unknown)
A distinguished warrior during the *Sengoku* period (1482-1558) and the founder of the renowned Yoshioka school of sword fighting. Yoshioka Kempo mastered the Kyohachi style of swordmanship and then modified it to form the Yoshioka style. In the context of Inoue's *VAGABOND*, as well as in Yoshikawa's *MUSASHI*, Yoshioka Seijuro and Denshichiro are Kempo's sons who are historically thought to have dueled with Miyamoto Musashi on numerous occasions.

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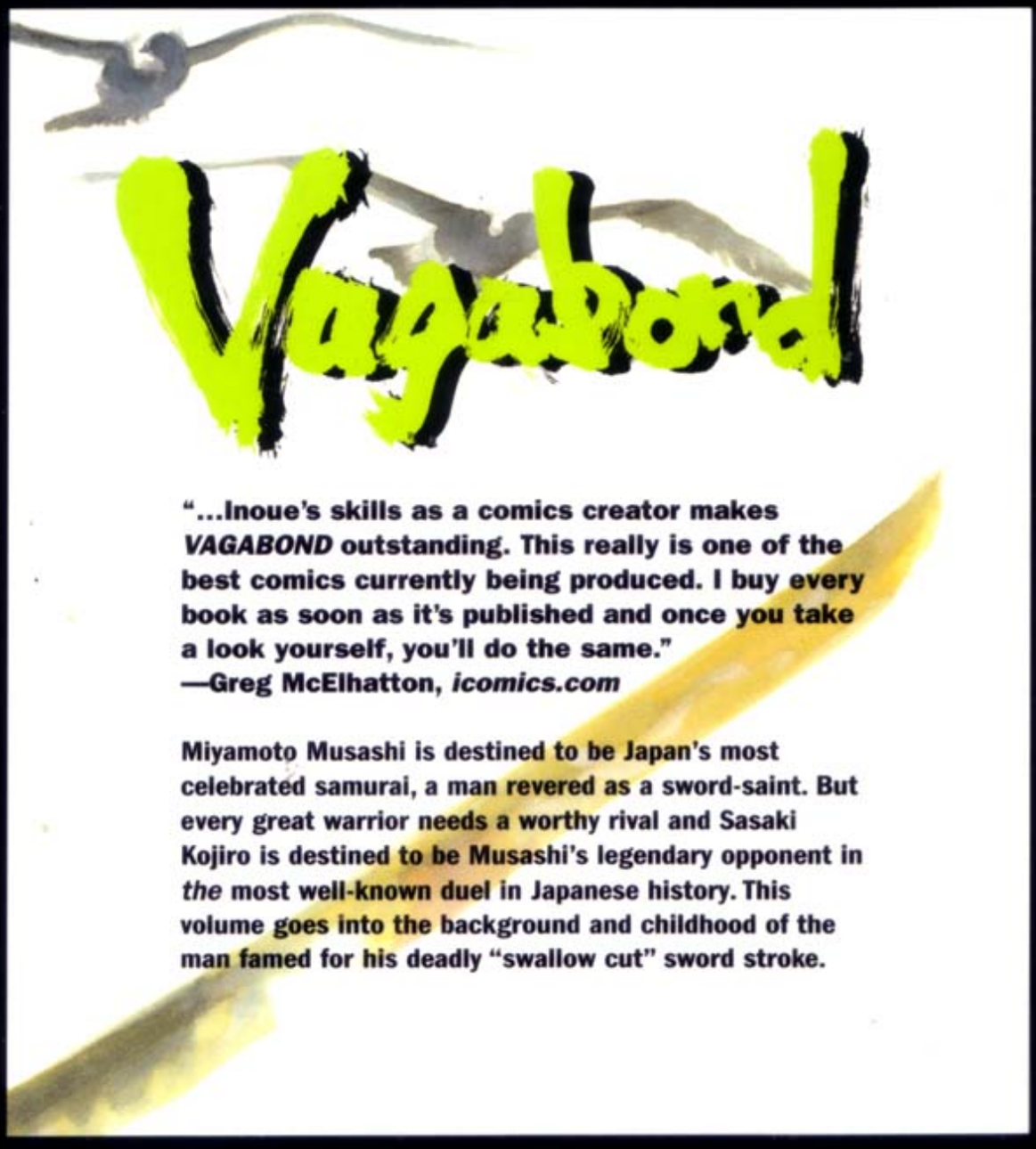


**"...Inoue's skills as a comics creator makes *VAGABOND* outstanding. This really is one of the best comics currently being produced. I buy every book as soon as it's published and once you take a look yourself, you'll do the same."**
**—Greg McElhatton, *icomics.com***

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